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Zool 562

Zool. N. 69.

BRITISH ZOOLOGY.

CLASS II.

GENUS XVIII, &c.

} BIRDS.

WITH AN

A P P E N D I X,

AN

ESSAY ON BIRDS OF PASSAGE,

AND

A N I N D E X.

V O L. II.

L O N D O N;

PRINTED FOR BENJAMIN WHITE,
AT HORACE'S HEAD, FLEET-STREET.

MDCCCLXVIII.

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A N N O T A T I O N S.

V O L . II.

PRINTED FOR BENJAMIN WHITE,

AT HORACE'S HEAD, LITTLE BRIDGE STREET.

MDCCLXXIII.

Genus XVIII. L A R K S.

I. The S K Y L A R K.

L'Alouette. *Belon av.* 269.Chamochilada. *Obs.* 12.Alauda fine crista. *Gesner av.* 78.*Aldr. av.* ii. 369.Lodola. *Olin* 12.Common Field Lark, or Sky-lark. *Wil. orn.* 203.*Raii syn. av.* 69.L'Alouette. *Briffon av.* iii. 335.Allodola, Panterana. *Zinan.* 55.Alauda arvensis. *Lin. syst.* 287.Larka. *Faun. Suec. sp.* 209.Alauda coelipeta. *Klein stem.* *Tab.* 15. f. 1.Sang-Lærke. *Br.* 221.Feldlerche. *Kram.* 362.*Br. Zool.* 93. plate S. 2. f. 7.

THE length of this species is seven inches one-fourth: the breadth twelve and a half: the weight one ounce and a half: the tongue broad and cloven: the bill slender: the upper mandible dusky, the lower yellow: above the eyes is a yellow spot: the crown of the head a reddish brown spotted with deep black: the hind part of the head ash-color. It has the faculty of erecting the feathers of the head. The feathers on the back and coverts of the wings dusky edged with reddish brown, which is paler on the latter: the quill-feathers dusky: the exterior web edged with white, that of the others with reddish brown: the chin is white: the upper part of the breast yellow spotted with black: the lower part of the body of a pale yellow: the exterior web, and half of the interior web next to the shaft of the first

R

feather

feather of the tail are white; of the second only the exterior web; the rest of those feathers dusky; the others are dusky edged with red; those in the middle deeply so, the rest very slightly: the legs dusky: soles of the feet yellow: the hind claw very long and strait.

This and the woodlark are the only birds that sing as they fly; this raising its note as it soars, and lowering it till it quite dies away as it descends. It will often soar to such a height that we are charmed with the music when we lose sight of the songster; it also begins its song before the earliest dawn. *Milton*, in his *Allegro*, most beautifully expresses these circumstances: and Bp. *Newton* observes, that the beautiful scene that *Milton* exhibits of rural cheerfulness, at the same time gives us a fine picture of the regularity of his life, and the innocency of his own mind; thus he describes himself as in a situation

To hear the lark begin his flight,
And singing startle the dull night,
From his watch tower in the skies,
Till the dappled dawn doth rise.

It continues its harmony several months, beginning early in the spring, on pairing. In the winter they assemble in vast flocks, grow very fat, and are taken in great numbers for our tables. They build their nest on the ground, beneath some clod; forming it of hay, dry fibres, &c. and lay four or five eggs.

The place these birds are taken in the greatest quantity, is the neighbourhood of *Dunstable*: the season

son begins about the fourteenth of *September*, and ends the twenty-fifth of *February*; and during that space, about 4000 dozen are caught, which supply the markets of the metropolis. Those caught in the day are taken in clap-nets of fiveteen yards length, and two and a half in breadth; and are enticed within their reach by means of bits of looking-glass, fixed in a piece of wood, and placed in the middle of the nets, which are put in a quick whirling motion, by a string the larker commands; he also makes use of a decoy lark. These nets are used only till the fourteenth of *November*, for the larks will not *dare*, or frolick in the air except in fine sunny weather; and of course cannot be inviegled into the snare. When the weather grows gloomy, the larker changes his engine, and makes use of a trammel net twenty-seven or twenty-eight feet long and five broad; which is put on two poles eighteen feet long, and carried by men under each arm, who pass over the fields and quarter the ground as a setting dog; when they hear or feel a lark hit the net, they drop it down, and so the birds are taken.

II. The W O O D - L A R K.

Tottavilla. *Olin* 27.*Wil. orn.* 204.*Raii syn. av.* 69.L'Alouette de Bois ou le Cuje-
lier. *Briffon av.* iii. 340.*tab.* 20. *fig.* 1.*Alauda arborea. Lin. syst.* 287.*Faun. Suec. sp.* 211.Ludllerche, Waldlerche. *Kram.*
362.*Danis Skov-Lerke, Cimbris*
Heede-Lerke, Lyng-Lerke.*Br.* 224.*Br. Zool.* 94. plate Q. f. 3.

Descr.

THIS bird is inferior in size to the sky-lark, and is of a shorter thicker form; the colors are paler, and its note less sonorous, though not less sweet. These and the following characters, which Mr. *Willoughby* points out, may serve at once to distinguish it from the common kind: it perches on trees; it whistles like the black-bird. The crown of the head, and the back, are marked with large black spots edged with pale reddish brown: the head is surrounded with a whitish coronet of feathers, reaching from eye to eye: the throat is of yellowish white spotted with black: the breast is tinged with red: the belly white: the coverts of the wings are brown edged with white and dull yellow: the quill feathers dusky; the exterior edges of the three first white; of the others yellow, and their tips blunt and white: the first feather of the wing is shorter than the second; in the common lark it is near equal: the tail is black, the outmost feather is tipped with white: the exterior web, and inner side of the interior are also white; in the second feather, the exterior web only: the legs are of a dull yellow; the hind claw very long. The wood-lark will sing in
the

the night, and like the common lark will sing as it flies. It builds on the ground, in the same manner as the former; but the species is not near so numerous. The males of this and the last are known from the females by their superior size.

III. The T I T-L A R K.

La Farlouse, Fallope ou L'Alouette de pre. <i>Belon av.</i> 272.	Mattolina, Petagnola, Corriera. <i>Zinan.</i> 55.
<i>Aldr. av.</i> ii. 370.	<i>Alauda pratensis. Lin. syst.</i> 287.
Lodolo di Prato. <i>Olini</i> 27.	<i>Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 210.
<i>Wil. orn.</i> 206.	<i>Englerke. Br.</i> 223.
<i>Raii syn. av.</i> 69.	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 94. plates Q. f. 6.
L'Alouette de prez ou la Farlouse. <i>Briffon av.</i> iii. 343.	P. 1. f. 3.

THIS bird is found frequently in low marshy grounds: like other larks it builds its nest among the grass, and lays five or six eggs. Like the woodlark it sits on trees; and has a most remarkable fine note, a circumstance that till of late we were unacquainted with: it is a bird of an elegant slender shape: the length is five inches and a half: the breadth nine inches: the bill is black: the back and head is of a greenish brown, spotted with black: the throat and lower part of the belly are white: the breast yellow, marked with oblong spots of black: the tail is dusky; the exterior feather is varied by a bar of white, which runs across the end and takes in the whole outmost web. The claw on the hind toe is very long, the feet yellowish: the subject figured

Descr,

in plate P. 1. of the *folio* edition, is a variety with dusky legs, shot on the rocks on the coast of *Caernarvonshire*.

IV. The LESSER FIELD LARK.

THIS species we received from Mr. *Plymly*, and find it the same with that described by *Descr. Mr. Willoughby*, page 207. It is larger than the *tit-lark*; the head and hind-part of the neck are of a pale brown spotted with dusky lines, which on the neck are very faint. The back and rump are of a dirty green; the former marked in the middle of each feather with black, the latter plain. The coverts of the wings dusky, deeply edged with white. The quill-feathers dusky; the exterior web of the first edged with white, of the others with a yellowish green. The throat is yellow: the breast of the same color, marked with large black spots: the belly and vent feathers white: on the thighs are a few dusky oblong lines: the tail is dusky: half the exterior and interior web of the outmost feather is white; the next is marked near the end with a short white stripe pointing downwards. The legs are of a very pale brown; and the claw on the hind toe very short for one of the lark kind, which strongly distinguishes it from the *tit-lark*.

V. The RED-LARK.

Edw. 297.*Briffon av. Suppl.* 94.*Br. Zool.* 94.

THIS bird Mr. *Edwards* discovered in the neighborhood of *London*. By his figure it seems of the size of the last species. The head, hind part of the neck, and back are of a dusky brown: a blackish line passes through each eye; above that is a clay colored one. The wings and tail are of a dark brown; the exterior feathers of the latter wholly white: the tips of the two next on each side also white: the under side from bill to tail of a reddish brown, marked with dusky spots: the legs are of a dark brown: the hind claw shorter than that of the common lark. When the wings are gathered up, the third quill-feather from the body reaches to its tip, which is a constant character of the water wag-tail genus.

VI. The LESSER CRESTED LARK.

Alauda cristata minor. *Aldr. av.* La petite alouette hupée. *Briffon*
ii. 371. *av.* III. 361.

Wil. orn. 209.*Br. Zool.* 95.*Raii syn. av.* 69.

THIS species we find in Mr. *Ray*'s history of *English* birds; who says it is found in *Yorkshire*, but gives us only this brief description of it, from

Aldrovandus: it is like the greater crested lark, but much less, and not so brown; that it hath a considerable tuft on its head for the smallness of its body; and that its legs are red. We never saw this kind; but by Mr. Bolton's list of *Yorkshire* birds, which he favoured us with, we are informed it is in plenty in that country.

VII. The GRASSHOPPER LARK.

Tit-lark that sings like a Grasshopper. *Wil. orn.* 209.

Alauda minima locustæ voce.

Locustella D. Johnson.

Raii syn. av. 70.

Ray's letters 108.

Alauda sepiaaria, L'Alouette de

Buiffon. Briffon av. iii. 347.

Alauda trivalis. Lin. syst. 288.

Br. Zool. 95. plate Q. f. 5.

THIS bird we received out of *Shropshire*: it is the same with that Mr. Ray describes as having the note of the grasshopper, but louder and shriller. When it sings it sits on the highest branch of a bush, with its mouth open and strait up, and its wings disheveled: its sibilous note is observed to cease about the latter end of *July*: it is far less than the *tit-lark*.

Descr. The bill is very slender, of a dusky color: the head, and whole upper part of the body is of a greenish brown, spotted with black: the quill-feathers dusky, edged with an olive brown: the tail is very long, composed of twelve sharp pointed feathers; the two middlemost are the longest, the others on each side grow gradually shorter. The under side of the body is of a dull yellowish white, darkest about the breast: the legs are of a dirty white: the hind claw shorter, and more crooked, than is usual in the lark kind.

VIII. The

VIII. The WILLOW LARK.

Br. Zool. 95. plate Q. f. 4.

THIS species has exactly the same actions and note with the preceding bird. It annually visits some willow hedges near a pool in *Whiteford* parish, *Flintshire*; where it continues the whole summer. It is inferior in size to the last. The head, back, and coverts of the wings are of a yellowish brown marked with dusky spots: the quill-feathers are dusky; their exterior edges of a dirty yellow: over each eye from the bill passes a whitish stroke. The chin and throat are white: the whole under side of the body is of a dull yellowish white: the tail is of a dark brown: the legs are of a yellowish brown: the back claw like that of the preceding bird. Descr.

To these may be added a species taken in the neighborhood of *London*, called by the bird catchers a *pippit*; we have not seen it, so can only, from their report, say that it has some resemblance to the *tit-lark*; but its note is much inferior to all other birds of this species.

Genus XIX. SWALLOWS.

I. The HOUSE SWALLOW.

La petite Hirondelle. <i>Belon av.</i>	L'Hirondelle de Cheminée. <i>Bris-</i>
378.	<i>son av.</i> ii. 486.
Hirundo domestica. <i>Gesner av.</i>	Hirundo rustica. <i>Lin. syst.</i> 343.
548.	Ladu-Swala. <i>Faun. Suec. sp.</i>
<i>Aldr. av.</i> ii. 294.	270.
House or chimney Swallow. <i>Wil.</i>	Forstue - Svale, Mark - Svale.
<i>orn.</i> 212.	<i>Brunnich</i> 289.
<i>Raii syn. av.</i> 71.	Haus Schwalbe. <i>Kram.</i> 380.
Rondone. <i>Zinan.</i> 47.	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 96.

THIS species appears in *Great-Britain* near twenty days before the martin, or any other of the swallow tribe. They leave us the latter end of *September*; and for a few days previous to their departure, they assemble in vast flocks on house tops, churches, and even trees, from whence they take their flight. It is now known that swallows take their winter quarters in *Senegal*, and possibly they may be found along the whole *Morocco* shore. We are indebted to M. *Adanson* * for this discovery, who first observed them in the month of *October*, after their migration out of *Europe*, on the shores of that kingdom: but whether it was this species alone, or all the *European* kinds, he is silent.

The house swallow is distinguished from all others by the superior forkiness of its tail, and by the red spot on the forehead, and under the chin.

Descr. The crown of the head, the whole upper part of the body, and the coverts of the wings are black,

* *Voyage to Senegal*, p. 121.

glossed with a rich purplish blue. The breast and belly white, tinged with red: the tail black; the two middle feathers plain: the others marked transversely near their ends with a white spot.

Its food is the same with the others of its kind, viz. insects; for the taking of which in their swiftest flight, nature hath admirably contrived their several parts; their mouths are very wide to take in flies, &c. in their quickest motion; their wings are long, and adapted for distant and continual flight; and their tails are forked, to enable them to turn the readier in pursuit of their prey. This species builds in chimneys, and makes its nest of clay, leaving the top quite open. It breeds earlier than any other species; and this year the young brood were observed to quit the nest on the eleventh of *July*.

II. The M A R T I N.

Le Martinet. *Belon av.* 380.
Hirundo sylvestris. *Gesner av.*
564.

Aldr. av. ii. 311.

Martin, Martlet, or Martinet.
Wil. orn. 213.

Raii syn. av. 71.

Rondone minore, e Grassolo,
Zinan. 48.

La petite Hirondelle, ou le Martinet a cul blanc. *Briffon av.*
ii. 490.

Hirundo urbica. *Lin. syst.* 344.

Hus-Swala. *Faun. Suec. sp.* 271.

Speyerl. *Kram.* 380.

Danis Bye v. Tagskicæg-Svale,

Langelandis, Rive. Br. 290.

Br. Zool. 96. plate Q. f. 2.

THE *Martin* is inferior in size to the former, and its tail much less forked. The head and upper part of the body, except the rump, is black glossed with blue: the breast, belly and rump are white: the feet are covered with a short white down. This is the second of the swallow kind that appears in our country. It builds under the eaves of houses, with

Descr.

with the same materials, and in the same form as the the house swallow, only its nest is covered above, having only a small hole for admittance. We have also seen this species build against the sides of high cliffs over the sea. It is a later breeder than the preceding by some days : but both will lay twice in the season ; and the latter brood of this species have been observed to come forth so late as the eighteenth of *September* ; yet that year (1766) they entirely quitted our sight by the fifth of *October* ; not but they sometimes continue here much later : the martins and red wing thrushes having been seen flying in view on the seventh of *November*.

III. The S A N D M A R T I N.

- | | |
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| L'Hirondelle de rivage. <i>Belon</i> | <i>Cat. Carol. app.</i> 37. |
| <i>av.</i> 379. | Rondone riparia. <i>Zinan.</i> 49. |
| Hirundo riparia, seu Drepanis. | Hirundo riparia. <i>Lin. syst.</i> 344. |
| <i>Gesner av.</i> 565. | Strand-swala, Back swala. <i>Faun.</i> |
| Dardanelli. <i>Aldr. av.</i> ii. 312. | <i>Suec. sp.</i> 273. |
| Sand Martin, or Shore Bird. | <i>Danis Dig-v.</i> Jord-swale, Soil- |
| <i>Wil. orn.</i> 213. | bakke. <i>Norveg.</i> Sand-Rænne. |
| <i>Raii syn. av.</i> 71. | <i>Br.</i> 291. |
| L'Hirondelle de rivage. <i>Briffon</i> | Gestetten-schwalbe. <i>Kram.</i> 381. |
| <i>av.</i> ii. 506. | <i>Br. Zool.</i> 97. plate Q. f. 1. |

THIS is the left of the genus that frequents *Great-Britain*. The head and whole upper part of the body are mouse colored : the throat white, encircled with a mouse colored ring : the belly white : the feet smooth and black.

It builds in holes in sand pits, and in the banks of rivers. It makes its nest of hay, straw, &c. and lines it with feathers : it lays five or six eggs, which are white, as are all those of this tribe.

IV. The

IV. The S W I F T.

La grande Hirondelle, Moutardier ou grand Martinet. *Belon.*

av. 377.

Apus. *Gesner av.* 166.

Aldr. av. ii. 312.

Black Martin, or Swift. *Wil.*

orn. 214.

Raii syn. av. 72.

Rondone. Zinan. 47.

Le Martinet. *Briffon av.* ii.

514.

Hirundo apus. Lin. syst. 344.

Ring-swala. *Faun. Suec. sp.* 272.

Steen, Kirke-v. Sæe-Svale.

Br. 292.

Speyer, grosse thurn schwalbe.

Kram. 380.

Br. Zool. 97.

THIS species is the largest of our swallows; but the weight is most disproportionately small to its extent of wing of any bird; the former being scarce one ounce, the latter eighteen inches. The length near eight. The feet of this bird are so small that the action of walking and of rising from the ground is extremely difficult; so that nature hath made it full amends by furnishing it with ample means for an easy and continual flight. It is more on the wing than any other swallows; its flight is more rapid, and that attended with a shrill scream. It rests by clinging against some wall, or other apt body; from whence *Klein* styles this species *Hirundo muraria*. It breeds under the eaves of houses, in steeples, and other lofty buildings. It is entirely of a sooty color, only the chin is marked with a white spot. The feet are of a particular structure, all the toes standing forward; the left consists of only one bone; the others of an equal number, viz. two each; in which they differ from those of all other birds.

This appears in our country about fourteen days later than the sand martin; but differs greatly in the time of its departure, retiring invariably about the middle *August*, being the first of the genus that leaves us.

For

For these, and several other observations, we owe our acknowledgements to the reverend Mr. *White*, of *Selborne, Hampshire*.

V. The GOATSUCKER.

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|--|--|
| L'Effraye ou Fresaye. <i>Belon av.</i> | Covaterra. <i>Zinan.</i> 94. |
| 343 *. | <i>Caprimulgus europæus.</i> <i>Lin.</i> |
| <i>Caprimulgus</i> (<i>Geissmelcher</i>) | <i>syst.</i> 346. |
| <i>Gesner av.</i> 241. | <i>Natskrafva, Natskrarra, Quall-</i> |
| <i>Calcabotto. Aldr. av.</i> i. 288. | <i>knarren. Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 274. |
| Fern Owl, Goat Owl, or Goat- | <i>Hirundo cauda æquabili. H.</i> |
| sucker. <i>Wil. orn.</i> 107. | <i>caprimulga. Klein hist. av.</i> |
| <i>Cat. Carol.</i> i. 8. | 81. <i>fig.</i> 1. |
| <i>Raii syn. av.</i> 26. | <i>Nat Ravn, Nat-Skade, Aften-</i> |
| <i>Dorrahawk, accipiter cantharo-</i> | <i>Bakke. Br.</i> 293. |
| <i>phagus. Charlton ex.</i> 79. | <i>Muckenstecher, Nachtrabl. Kram.</i> |
| <i>Le Tette chevre ou Crapaud</i> | 381. |
| <i>volant. Brisson av.</i> ii. 470. | <i>Br. Zool.</i> 97. plate R. R. 1. |
| <i>tab.</i> 44. | |

K LEIN, with much propriety, hath placed this bird in the swallow tribe; and styles it a *swallow with an undivided tail*. It has most of the characters of this genus, such as a very small bill, vast mouth, and small legs. It is also a bird of passage, agrees in its food with this genus, and its manner of taking it, and differs only in the hours of its preying; this flying by night: so with justice it may be styled a *nocturnal swallow*. It feeds on moths, gnats, and dorrs, or chaffers; from whence *Charlton* calls it the *Dorr hawk*. The goatsucker makes but a short stay with us; not appearing here till the latter end of *May*, and retiring about the middle of *August*. It is common in the wooded and mountainous parts of *Great-Britain*; begins its flight towards evening; and while on wing makes a loud and singular noise,

* *Belon's* figure p. 341. suits our white owl, but his description p. 344. agrees with the goatsucker.

so much resembling that of a large spinning wheel, that the *Welsh* call this bird *Aderyn y droell*, or the *wheel bird*. This noise being made only in its flight, we may suppose it to be caused by the resistance of the air against the hollow of its vastly extended mouth and throat: for it flies with both open to take its prey. When perched, its note is no more than a small squeak, repeated four or five times together. It lays its eggs on the bare ground; usually two, or at most three: they are of a long shape, of a whitish hue, prettily marbled with reddish brown.

The colors of these birds, though plain, have a beautiful effect from the elegance of their disposition, consisting of black, white, brown, grey and ferruginous, dispersed in form of bars, streaks and spots.

The male is distinguished from the female by an oval white spot near the end of each of the three first quill-feathers: and another on the two outmost feathers of the tail: The color of the whole plumage is also much more ferruginous. Their weight is only two ounces and a half. Their length ten inches and a half: their breadth twenty-two: the irides are hazel: the bill is scarce one-third of an inch long: the gape of the bill, when opened, is near two inches from tip to tip: that of the mouth from corner to corner one inch three-quarters: the corners of the mouth thick set with strong bristles: the inside of a purple color: the tongue is very small, and placed low in the mouth: the nostrils are a little tubular, and prominent: the legs small, scaly and feathered below the knees. The middle toe connected to those on each side by a small membrane reaching to the first

Descr.

first joint : the claw of the middle toe is broad, thin, and ferrated.

Of the disappearance of swallows.

There are three opinions among naturalists concerning the manner the swallow tribes dispose of themselves after their disappearance from the countries in which they make their summer residence. *Herodotus* mentions one species that resides in *Egypt* the whole year : *Prosper Alpinus* * asserts the same ; and Mr. *Loten*, late governor of *Ceylon*, assured us, that those of *Java* never remove. These excepted, every other known kind observe a periodical migration, or retreat. The swallows of the cold *Norway* †, and of *North America* ‡, of the distant *Kamtschatka* §, of the temperate parts of *Europe*, of *Aleppo* ||, and of the hot *Jamaica* **, all agree in this one point.

In cold countries, a defect of insect food on the approach of winter, is a sufficient reason for these birds to quit them : but since the same cause probably does not subsist in the warm climates, recourse should be had to some other reason for their vanishing.

Of the three opinions, the first has the utmost appearance of probability ; which is, that they remove nearer the sun, where they can find a continuance of their natural diet, and a temperature of air suiting

* *Hirundines duplicis generis ibi observantur ; patriæ scilicet quæ nunquam ab Ægypto discedentes, ibi perpetuo morantur, atque peregrinæ, hæ sunt nostratibus omnino similes ; patriæ vero toto etiam ventre nigricant. Hist. Ægypt. i. 198.*

† *Pontop. hist. Norw. ii. 98.*

‡ *Cat. Carol. i. 51. app. 8.*

§ *Hist. Kamts. 162.*

|| *Russel Alep. 70.*

** *Phil. trans. No. 36.*

their constitutions. That this is the case with some species of *European* swallows, has been proved beyond contradiction (as above cited) by M. *Adanson*. We often observe them collected in flocks innumerable on churches, on rocks, and on trees, previous to their departure hence ; and Mr. *Collinson* proves their return here in perhaps equal numbers, by two curious relations of undoubted credit. The one communicated to him by Mr. *Wright*, master of a ship, the other by the late Sir *Charles Wager*, who both described (to the same purpose) what happened to each in their voyages. “ Returning home, says Sir *Charles*, “ in the spring of the year, as I came into sounding “ in our channel, a great flock of swallows came and “ settled on all my rigging ; every rope was covered ; “ they hung on one another like a swarm of bees ; “ the decks and carving were filled with them. “ They seemed almost famished and spent, and were “ only feathers and bones ; but being recruited with “ a night’s rest, took their flight in the morning *.” This vast fatigue, proves that their journey must have been very great, considering the amazing swiftness of these birds : in all probability they had crossed the *Atlantic* ocean, and were returning from the shores of *Senegal*, or other parts of *Africa* ; so that this account from that most able and honest seaman, confirms the later information of M. *Adanson*.

The second notion has great antiquity on its side. *Aristotle* † and *Pliny* ‡ give, as their belief, that swal-

* *Phil. trans.* vol. li. part 2. p. 459.

† *Hist. an.* 935.

‡ *Lib.* 10. c. 24.

lows do not remove very far from their summer habitation, but winter in the hollows of rocks, and during that time lose their feathers. The former part of their opinion has been adopted by several ingenious men; and of late, several proofs have been brought of some species, at least, having been discovered in a torpid state. Mr. *Collinson* * favored us with the evidence of three gentlemen, eye-witnesses to numbers of *sand martins* being drawn out of a cliff on the *Rhine*, in the month of *March* 1762 †. And the honorable Mr. *Daines Barrington*, this year, communicated to us the following fact, on the authority of the late lord *Belhaven*, that numbers of swallows have been found in old dry walls, and in sandhills near his lordship's seat in *East Lothian*; not once only, but from year to year; and that when they were exposed to the warmth of a fire, they revived. We have also heard of the same annual discoveries near *Morpeth* in *Northumberland*, but cannot speak of them with the same assurance as the two former: neither in the two last instances are we certain of the particular species ‡.

The above, are circumstances we cannot but assent to, though seemingly contradictory to the common course of nature in regard to other birds. We must, therefore, divide our belief relating to these two so different opinions, and conclude, that one part of the swallow tribe migrate, and that others have their

* By letter, dated *June* 14, 1764.

† *Phil. transf.* vol. 53. p. 101. art. 24.

‡ *Klein* gives an instance of *swifts* being found in a torpid state. *Hist. av.* 204.

winter quarters near home. If it should be demanded, why swallows alone are found in a torpid state, and not the other many species of soft billed birds, which likewise disappear about the same time? The following reason may be assigned:

No birds are so much on the wing as swallows, none fly with such swiftness and rapidity, none are obliged to such sudden and various evolutions in their flight, none are at such pains to take their prey, and we may add, none exert their voice more incessantly; all these occasion a vast expence of strength, and of spirits, and may give such a texture to the blood, that other animals cannot experience; and so dispose, or we may say, necessitate, this tribe of birds, or part of them, at least, to a repose more lasting than that of any others.

The third notion is, even at first sight, too amazing and unnatural to merit mention, if it was not that some of the learned have been credulous enough to deliver, for fact, what has the strongest appearance of impossibility; we mean the relation of swallows passing the winter immersed under ice, at the bottom of lakes, or lodged beneath the water of the sea at the foot of rocks. The first who broached this opinion, was *Olaus Magnus*, archbishop of *Upsal*, who very gravely informs us, that these birds are often found in clustered masses at the bottom of the northern lakes, mouth to mouth, wing to wing, foot to foot; and that they creep down the reeds in autumn, to their subaqueous retreats. That when old fishermen discover such a mass, they throw it into the water again; but when young inexperienced ones take it, they will,

by thawing the birds at a fire, bring them indeed to the use of their wings, which will continue but a very short time, being owing to a premature and forced revival *.

That the good archbishop did not want credulity, in other instances, appears from this, that after having stocked the bottoms of the lakes with birds, he strewed the clouds with mice, which sometimes fall in plentiful showers on *Norway* and the neighboring countries †.

Some of our own countrymen have given credit to the submerſion of ſwallows ‡; and *Klein* patroniſes the doctrine ſtrongly, giving the following hiſtory of their manner of retiring, which he received from ſome countrymen and others. They aſſerted, that ſometimes the ſwallows aſſembled in numbers on a reed, till it broke and ſunk with them to the bottom; and their immerſion was preluded by a dirge of a quarter of an hour's length. That others would unite in laying hold of a ſtraw with their bills, and ſo plunge down in ſociety. Others again would form a large maſs, by clinging together with their feet, and ſo commit themſelves to the deep ||.

Such are the relations given by thoſe that are fond of this opinion, and though delivered without exag-

* *Derham's Phyſ. Theol.* note d. p. 349. *Pontop. hiſt. Norw.* i. 99.

† *Gefner Icon. An.* 100.

‡ *Derham's Phyſ. Theol.* 340. 349. *Hildrop's tract.* ii. 32.

|| *Klein hiſt.* av. 205. 206. *Ekmarck migr.* av. *Amæn. acad.* iv. 589.

geration,

geration, must provoke a smile. They assign not the smallest reason to account for these birds being able to endure so long a submerfion without being suffocated, or without decaying, in an element so unnatural to so delicate a bird ; when we know that the otter *, the cormorant, and the grebes, soon perish, if caught under ice, or entangled in nets : and it is well known, that those animals will continue much longer under water than any others to whom nature hath denied that particular structure of heart, necessary for a long residence beneath that element.

* Though entirely satisfied in our own mind of the impossibility of these relations ; yet, desirous of strengthening our opinion with some better authority, we applied to that able anatomist, Mr. *John Hunter* ; who was so obliging to inform us, that he had dissected many swallows, but found nothing in them different from other birds as to the organs of respiration. That all those animals which he had dissected of the class that sleep during winter, such as lizards, frogs, &c. had a very different conformation as to those organs. That all these animals, he believes, do breathe in their torpid state ; and, as far as his experience reaches, he knows they do : and that therefore he esteems it a very wild opinion that terrestrial animals can remain any long time under water without drowning.

Genus XX. Slender billed small Birds.

* Those with tails of one color.

** Those with particolored tails.

I. The NIGHTINGALE.

Le Rossignol. *Belon av.* 335.Adoni, Aidoni. *Obs.* 12.Luscinia. *Gesner av.* 592.*Aldr. av.* ii. 336.*Wil. orn.* 220.*Raii syn. av.* 78.Le Rossignol. *Briffon av.* iii.

397.

Rufignuolo. *Zinan* 54.Motacilla luscinia. *Lin. syst.* 328.Nachtergahl. *Faun. Suec. sp.* 244.*Hasselquist itin. Ter. Sanct.* 291.Nattergale. *Brunnich in append.*

Au - vogel, Auen - nachtigall.

Kram. 376.*Br. Zool.* 100. plate S. 1. f. 2.

THE nightingale takes its name from *night*, and the *Saxon* word *galan* to sing; expressive of the time of its harmony. In size it is equal to the *redstart*; but longer bodied; and more elegantly made. The colors are very plain. The head and back are of a pale tawny dashed with olive: the tail is of a deep tawny red: the throat, breast, and upper part of the belly of a light glossy ash-color: the lower belly almost white: the exterior webs of the quill-feathers are of a dull reddish brown; the interior of brownish ash-color: the irides are hazel, and the eyes remarkably large and piercing: the legs and feet a deep ash-color.

This bird, the most famed of the feathered tribe,
for

for the variety *, length and sweetness of its notes, visits *England* the beginning of *April*, and leaves us in *August*. It is a species that does not spread itself over the island. It is not found in *North Wales*; or in any of the *English* counties north of it, except *Yorkshire*, where they are met with in great plenty about *Doncaster*. It is also remarkable, that this bird does not migrate so far west as *Cornwall* †; a county, where the seasons are so very mild, that myrtles flourish in the open air during the whole year. *Sibbald* places them in his list of *Scotch* birds; but *Jonston* ‡ denies that they have the same harmony as those of *Italy*. Possibly they may be found in that part of our island, as they visit *Sweden*, a much more severe climate. With us they frequent thick hedges, and low coppices; and generally keep in the middle of the bush, so that they are very rarely seen. They begin their song in the evening, and continue it the whole night. These, their vigils, did not pass unnoticed by the ancients: the flumbers of these birds were proverbial; and not to rest as much as the *nightingale*, expressed a very bad sleeper ||. This was the favorite bird of the *British* poet, who omits no opportunity of introducing it, and almost constantly noting its love of solitude and night: how finely

* For this reason, *Oppian*, in his *halieutics*, l. i. 728. gives the *nightingale* the epithet of αἰολοφώνη, or *various voiced*; and *Hesiod*, (figuratively) of ποικιλοδαιρεα, or *various throated*. Εγὼ καὶ ἡμέραι, l. 201.

† *Borlase's nat. hist. Cornwall*, 244.

‡ *Jonston hist nat. av.* 89.

|| *Ælian var. hist.* 577. both in the text and note.

does it serve to compose part of the solemn scenery of his *Penseroso*; when he describes it

In her saddest sweetest plight,
Smoothing the rugged brow of night;
While *Cynthia* checks her dragon yoke,
Gently o'er th'accustom'd oak;
Sweet bird, that shun'st the noise of folly,
Most musical, most melancholy!
Thee, chauntress, oft the woods among,
I woo to hear thy evening song.

In another place he styles it the *solemn bird*; and again speaks of it,

As the wakeful bird
Sings darkling, and in shadiest covert hid,
Tunes her nocturnal note.

The reader must excuse a few more quotations from the same poet, on the same subject; the first describes the approach of evening, and the retiring of all animals to their repose.

Silence accompanied; for beast and bird,
They to their grassy couch, these to their nests
Were flunk; all but the wakeful *nightingale*,
She all the night long her amorous descant sung.

When *Eve* passed the irksome night preceding her fall, she, in a dream, imagines herself thus reproached with losing the beauties of the night by indulging too long a repose;

Why sleep'st thou, *Eve*? now is the pleasant time,
The cool, the silent, save where silence yeilds
To the night-warbling bird, that now awake
Tunes sweetest his love-labor'd song.

The same birds sing their nuptial song, and lull them to rest. How rapturous are the following lines!
how

how expressive of the delicate sensibility of our *Milton's* tender ideas!

The earth

Gave sign of gratulation, and each hill;
Joyous the birds; fresh gales and gentle airs
Whisper'd it to the woods, and from their wings
Flung rose, flung odors from the spicy shrub,
Disporting, till the amorous bird of night
Sung spousal, and bid haste the evening star
On his hill-top to light the bridal lamp.

These, lull'd by *nightingales*, embracing slept;
And on their naked limbs the flowery roof
Shower'd roses, which the morn repair'd.

These quotations from the best judge of melody we thought due to the sweetest of our feathered choiristers; and we believe no reader of taste will think them tedious.

Virgil seems to be the only writer among the ancients who hath attended to the circumstance of this bird's singing in the night time.

Qualis populeâ mœrens philomela sub umbrâ
Amisſos queritur fœtus, quos durus arator
Observans nido implumes detraxit: at illa
Flet noctem, ramoque sedens miserabile carmen
Integrat, et mœstis late loca questibus implet. *Georg. iv. l. 511.*

As philomel in poplar shades, alone,
For her lost offspring pours a mother's moan,
Which some rough ploughman marking for his prey,
From the warm nest, unfledg'd hath dragg'd away;
Percht on a bough, she all night long complains,
And fills the grove with sad repeated strains. *F. Warton.*

Mr. *Willoughby* informs us that they make their nest in *May*, of the leaves of trees, straws and moss; and that they seldom sing near their nest, for fear of discovering it: he also observes, they delight in no high

high trees, except the oak. *Pliny* has described the warbling notes of this bird, with an elegance that bespeaks an exquisite sensibility of taste: notwithstanding his words have been cited by most other writers on natural history, yet such is the beauty, and in general the truth of his expressions, that they cannot be too much studied by lovers of natural history, therefore claims a place in a work of this kind. We must observe notwithstanding, that a few of his thoughts are more to be admired for their vivacity than for strict philosophical reasoning, but these few are easily distinguishable.

“ *Luscinis* diebus ac noctibus continuis xv. garru-
 “ lus sine intermissu cantus, densante se frondium
 “ germine, non in novissimum digna miratu ave.
 “ Primum tanta vox tam parvo in corpusculo, tam
 “ pertinax spiritus. Deinde in una perfecta musicæ
 “ scientia modulatus editur sonus: & nunc continuo
 “ spiritu trahitur in longum, nunc variatur inflexo,
 “ nunc distinguitur conciso, copulatur intorto: pro-
 “ mittitur revocato, infuscatur ex inopinato: inter-
 “ dum & secum ipse murmurat: plenus, gravis,
 “ acutus, creber, extentus, ubi visum est, vibrans,
 “ summus, medius, imus. Breviterque omnia tam
 “ parvulis in faucibus, quæ tot exquisitis tibiæ
 “ tormentis ars hominum excogitavit: ut non sit
 “ dubium hanc suavitatem præmonstratam efficaci
 “ auspicio, cum in ore *Stesichori* cecinit infantis.
 “ Ac ne quis dubitet artis esse, plures singulis sunt
 “ cantus, nec iidem omnibus, sed sui cuique. Cer-
 “ tant inter se, palamque animosa contentio est.
 “ Victa morte finit sæpe vitam, spiritu prius defi-
 “ ciente,

“ ciente, quam cantu. Meditantur aliæ juniores,
 “ versusque quos imitentur accipiunt. Audit disci-
 “ pula intentione magna & reddit, vicibusque reti-
 “ cent. Intelligitur emendatæ correctio & in docente
 “ quædam reprehensio *.”

II. The RED START.

Le Rossignol de Muraille. <i>Belon</i>	Culo ranzo, Culo rosso. <i>Zinan.</i>
<i>av.</i> 347.	53.
Ruticilla, five Phœnicurus (Som- merotele) <i>Gesner av.</i> 731.	Motacilla Phœnicurus. <i>Lin. syst.</i>
<i>Aldr. av.</i> ii. 327.	335.
Codorosso. <i>Olina</i> 47.	Rodstjert. <i>Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 257.
<i>Wil. orn.</i> 218.	<i>Norvegis</i> Blod-fugl. <i>Danis</i> Roed- stjert. <i>Brunnich</i> 280.
<i>Raii syn. av.</i> 78.	Waldrothschweiff. <i>Kram.</i> 376.
Ruticilla. <i>Briffon av.</i> iii. 403.	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 99. plate S. f. 6. 7.

THIS also appears among us only in the spring and summer, and is observed to come over nearly at the same time with the nightingale. It makes its nest in hollow trees, and holes in walls and other buildings; which it forms with moss on the outside, and lines with hair and feathers. It lays four or five eggs, very like those of the hedge-sparrow; but rather paler, and more taper at the less end. This bird is so remarkably shy, that it will forsake its nest, if the eggs are only touched. It has a very fine soft note; but being a sullen bird, is with difficulty kept alive in confinement.

The bill and legs of the male are black: the fore-
 head white: the crown of the head, hind part of the

Descr.

* *Plin.* lib. 10. c. 29.

neck,

neck, and the back are of a deep blue grey : the cheeks and throat black : the breast, rump and sides are red : the two middle feathers of the tail brown, the others red : the wings brown. In the female, the top of the head and back are of a deep ash-color : the rump and tail of a duller red than those of the male : the chin white ; the lower side of the neck cinereous : the breast of a paler red.

III. The RED-BREAST.

Rubeline. *Belon av.* 348.

Rubecula. *Gesner av.* 730.

Erithacus. *Aldr. av.* ii. 325.

Olin 16.

Robin red-breast, or Ruddock.

Wil. orn. 219.

Raii syn. av. 78.

Le Rouge-gorge. *Briffon av.* iii. 418.

Pettorosso. *Zinan.* 46.

Motacilla rubecula. *Lin. syst.*

337.

Rotgel. *Faun. Suec. sp.* 260.

Roed-Finke, Roed-Kielke. *Br.*

283.

Rothkropfl. *Kram.* 376.

Br. Zool. 100. plate S. 2.

THIS bird, though so very petulant as to be at constant war with its own tribe ; yet is remarkably sociable with mankind : in the winter it frequently makes one of the family ; and takes refuge from the inclemency of the season even by our fire sides. *Thompson* * has prettily described the annual visits of this guest. The great beauty of that celebrated poet consists in his elegant and just descriptions of the œconomy of animals ; and the happy use † he hath made of natural knowledge, in descrip-

* In his seasons, *vide Winter*, line 246.

† *Vide our Preface.*

tive poetry, shines through almost every page of his *Seasons*. The affection this bird has for mankind, is also recorded in that antient ballad, * *The babes in the wood*; a composition of a most beautiful and pathetic simplicity. It is the first tryal of our humanity: the child that refrains from tears on hearing that read, gives but a bad presage of the tenderness of his future sensations.

In the spring this bird retires to breed in the thickest covers, or the most concealed holes of walls and other buildings. The eggs are of a dull white sprinkled with reddish spots. Its song is remarkably fine and soft; and the more to be valued, as we enjoy it the greatest part of the winter, and early in the spring.

The bill is dusky: the forehead, chin, throat and breast are of a deep orange color: the head, hind part of the neck, the back and tail are of a deep ash-color tinged with green: the wings rather darker; the edges inclining to yellow: the legs and feet dusky. Descr.

* Reliques of antient *English* poetry, vol. iii. p. 170.

IV. The BLACKCAP.

Atricapilla. *Gesner av.* 371,
384.

Aldr. av ii. 329.

Wil. orn. 226.

La Fauvette a tete noire, Cur-
ruca atricapilla. *Briffon av.*
iii. 380.

Capinera. *Zinan.* 56.

Olina 9.

Raii syn. av. 79.

Motacilla atricapilla. *Lin. syst.*
332.

Faun. Suec. sp. 256.

Hav-Skade. *quibusdam* Spikke.
Br. 228.

Schwartz plattl. *Kram.* 377.

Br. Zool. 101. plate S. f. 5.

DESCR. **T**HIS bird is among the smallest of this tribe, scarce weighing half an ounce. The crown of the head in the male is black: the hind part of the neck a light ash-color: the back and coverts of the wings are of a greyish green: the quill-feathers and tail dusky, edged with dull green: the breast and upper part of the belly are of a pale ash-color: the vent feathers whitish: the legs of a lead color. The female is distinguished from the male by the spot on the head, which in that is of a dull rust-color. The blackcap is a bird of passage, leaving us before winter. It sings very finely; and on that account is called in *Norfolk* the *mock-nightingale* *.

The last spring we discovered the nest of this bird in a *spruce fir*, about two feet from the ground; the outside was composed of the dried stalks of the *goose grass*, with a little wool and green moss round the verge; the inside was lined with the fibres of roots thinly covered with black horse hair. There were five

* *Calendar of Flora*, p. 26.

eggs of a pale reddish brown, mottled with a deeper shade, and sprinkled with a few dark spots.

V. The P E T T Y - C H A P S.

Ficedula. *Gesner av.* 385.

Raii syn. av. 79.

Beccafigo, or Fig-eater. *Wil. orn.* 216.

Motacilla hippolais. Lin. syst. 330.

La Fauvette, Curruca. *Briffon av. iii.* 372.

Faun. Suec. sp. 248.

Beccafico cinerizio; Bigione. *Zinan.* 44.

Braune grassmucke, Kleiner spottvogel. *Kram.* 377.
Br. Zool. plate S. 1. f. 1.

THIS species being unknown to us, we must borrow its description from Mr. *Willoughby*. In Descr. size it is scarce so big as a linnet. The head, neck, back, wings and tail, from ash-color, or dusky, incline to green: the quill-feathers mouse-color, edged with green. The inner coverts of the wings are yellow: the belly is of a silvery white; the breast darker, tinged with yellow: the inside of the mouth red: the legs bluish, or of a lead color. This bird is found in *Yorkshire*; from whence it was sent to Mr. *Willoughby*, by his friend Mr. *Jessop*: perhaps it is the species known in that county by the name of the *beam-bird*, because it nestles under the ends of beams in out-buildings, &c.

VI. The FLY-CATCHER.

Stoparola. *Aldr. av.* ii. 324.

A small bird without a name,
like the *Stopparola* of *Aldro-*
vand. Wil. orn. 217.

Zinn. 45.

The Cobweb. *Morton Northampt.*
426.

Raii syn. av. 77.

Le Gobe-mouche, *Muscicapa.*
Briffon av. ii. 357. *tab.* 35.
f. 3.

Muscicapa grisola. Lin. syst. 328.

Br. Zool. 99. plate P. 2. f. 4.

THE fly-catcher is a bird of passage, appears in the spring, breeds with us, and retires in *August*. It builds its nest on the sides of trees, towards the middle: *Morton* says in the corners of walls where spiders weave their webs. We have seen them followed by four or five young, but never saw their eggs. When the young can fly the old ones withdraw with them into thick woods, where they frolick among the top branches; dropping from the boughs frequently quite perpendicular on the flies that sport beneath, and rise again in the same direction. It will also take its stand on the top of some stake or post, from whence it springs forth on its prey, returning still to the same stand for many times together. They feed also on cherries, of which they seem very fond.

Descr.

The head is large, of a brownish hue spotted obscurely with black: the back of a mouse color: the wings and tail dusky; the interior edges of the quill-feathers edged with pale yellow: the breast and belly white; the shafts of the feathers on the former dusky; the throat and sides under the wings are dashed with red: the bill is very broad at the base, is
ridged

ridged in the middle; and round the base are several short bristles: the inside of the mouth is yellow: the legs and feet short and black.

VII. The HEDGE SPARROW.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Le petit Mouchet. <i>Belon. av.</i> | <i>Raii syn. av.</i> 79. |
| 375. | La Favette de haye, ou la passe |
| Potamida, <i>obs.</i> 12. | buse <i>Currucæ sepiaria. Brisson.</i> |
| Passer sepium <i>Angl. Aldr. av.</i> ii. | <i>av.</i> iii. 394. |
| 329. | Jarnsparf. <i>Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 245. |
| <i>Currucæ Eliotæ</i> (Zaunschlipfle) | <i>Motacilla, Modularis. Lin. syst.</i> |
| <i>Gesner av.</i> 371. | 329. |
| <i>Wil. orn.</i> 215. | <i>Br. Zool.</i> plate S. 1. f. 3. 4. |

THIS bird weighs twelve drams. Its head is Descr.
of a deep brown, mixed with ash-color, the cheeks marked with oblong spots of dirty white: the back and coverts of the wings are dusky, edged with reddish brown: the quill-feathers and tail dusky: the rump brown, tinged with green: the throat and breast are of a dull ash-color: the belly of a dirty white: the sides, thighs, and vent feathers are of a pale tawny brown: the legs of a dull flesh color.

This bird frequents low hedges, especially those of gardens. It makes its nest in some small bush, and lays four or five eggs of a fine pale blue color. The male has a short but very sweet note during a very small space in the spring. *Linnaeus* seems not to have been acquainted with this species: the bird which he supposes to be our hedge sparrow, and describes under the title of *Motacilla currucæ*, * differs in colors of plumage as well as eggs.

* *Faun. Suec. sp.* 247.

VIII. The WILLOW-WREN.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Chofti, ou Chanteur. <i>Belon av.</i> | Le Pouillot, ou chantre. <i>Afilus.</i> |
| 344. | <i>Briffon av.</i> iii. 479. |
| Trochilus. <i>Gesner av.</i> 726. | <i>Motacilla trochilus. Lin. syst.</i> |
| <i>Afilus. Aldr. av.</i> ii. 293. | 338. |
| Little yellowish Bird. <i>Wil. orn.</i> | <i>Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 264. |
| 228. | Spurre-Konge, Fager-Fiis. <i>Br.</i> |
| <i>Raii syn. av.</i> 80. | 286. |
| <i>Edw. av.</i> 278. | <i>Br. Zool.</i> 101. plate S. f. 2. S. 2. |
| Schmittl. <i>Kram.</i> 378. | f. 1. |

THE willow-wren frequents large moist woods, and places where those trees abound from which it takes its name. Its weight is about two
 Descr. drams. The color of the whole upper part of the body is a dusky green : the wings and tail are brown, edged with yellowish green : above each eye is a yellowish stroke ; the breast, belly, and thighs vary in their color in different birds ; in some are of a bright yellow, in others it fades almost into white. It builds in hollows in the sides of ditches, making its nest in the form of an egg ; with a large hole at the top, as an entrance : the outside is composed of moss and hay, the inside lined with soft feathers. It lays commonly seven white eggs, marked with numerous small rust-colored spots. It has a low plaintive note ; and is perpetually creeping up and down the bodies and boughs of trees.

IX. The GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN.

La Soulcie. *Belon av.* 345.

Tettigon. *obs.* 12.

Regulus. *Gesner av.* 727.

Fior rancio. *Olin* 6.

Aldr. av. ii. 290.

Wil. orn 227.

Raii syn. av. 79.

Edw. av. 254.

Cat. Carol. app. 36. 37.

Le Poul, ou Sonci, ou Roitelet
hupé, *Calendula. Brisson av.*
iii. 579.

Motacilla regulus. Lin. syst. 338.

Kongsfogel. Faun. Suec. sp. 262.

Goldhannel. Kram. 378.

Fugle-Konge. Br. 235.

Br. Zool. 101. plate S. f. 3.

THIS is the lest of the *British* birds, weighing only seventy-six grains. Its length is three inches and a half; the breadth five inches: it may readily be distinguished from all other birds, not only by its size, but by the beautiful scarlet mark on the head, bounded on each side by a fine yellow line. The bill is dusky: the feathers of the forehead are green: from the bill to the eyes is a narrow white line: the back, and the hind part of the neck are of a dull green: the coverts of the wings dusky edged with green and tipt with white: the quill-feathers and tail dusky edged with pale green. The throat and lower part of the body white tinged with green: the legs dull yellow: the claws very long. It frequents woods, and is found principally in oak trees. Though so small a bird it indures our winters, for we have frequently seen it later than *Christmas*.

Descr.

We have observed this bird suspended in the air for a considerable time over a bush in flower, whilst it sung very melodiously. The note does not much differ from that of the common wren.

X. The W R E N.

Roytelet, Bœuf de Dieu, & Berichot. *Belon av.* 343.

Trilato, *obs.* 12.

Passer troglodytes. *Gesner av.* 651.

Aldr. av. ii. 292.

Reatino. *Olin* 6.

Wil. orn. 229.

Raii syn. av. 80.

Le Roitelet, Regulus. *Briffon av.* iii. 425.

Motacilla troglodytes. *Lin. syst.* 337.

Faun. Suec. sp. 261.

Nelle-Konge. *Brunnich.* 284.

Schneekoning, Konickerl, Zaun-schlupferl. *Kram.* 378.

Br. Zool. 102.

THE wren may be placed among the finest of our singing birds, though its note is of no long continuance; only during the breeding season. It makes its nest in a very curious manner; of an oval shape, very deep, with a small hole in the middle for egress and regress: the external material is moss, within it is lined with hair and feathers. It lays from ten to eighteen eggs; and as often brings up as many young; which, as Mr. Ray observes, may be ranked among those daily miracles that we take no notice of; that it should feed such a number without passing over one, and that too in utter darkness.

Descr.

The head and upper part of the body of the wren are of a deep reddish brown: above each eye is a stroke of white: the back, and coverts of the wings, and tail, are marked with slender transverse black lines: the quill feathers with bars of black and red. The throat is of a yellowish white. The belly and sides crossed with narrow dusky and pale reddish brown lines. The tail is crossed with dusky bars.

XI. The W H E A T - E A R.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <i>Belon av.</i> 352. | <i>Vitiflora. Brisson av.</i> iii. 449. |
| <i>Oenanthe. Gesner av.</i> 629. | Kulo bianco, Fornarola, Petrag- |
| <i>Aldr. av.</i> ii. 332. | nola. <i>Zinan.</i> 41. |
| Wheat-ear, Fallow-smich, White- | <i>Norvegis</i> Steendolp, Steen Squet- |
| tail. <i>Wil. orn.</i> 233. | te, Steengylpe. <i>Brunnich</i> 276. |
| <i>Raii syn. av.</i> 75. | Steinschwaker, Steinschnapperl. |
| <i>Motacilla oenanthe. Lin. syst.</i> | <i>Kram.</i> 374. |
| 332. | <i>Br. Zool.</i> 102. plate S. 1. f. |
| <i>Stensquetta. Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 254. | 5. 6. |
| Le Cul blanc, Vitre, ou Moteux, | |

THE wheat-ear begins to visit us about the middle of *March*, and continues coming till the beginning of *May*: we have observed that the females arrive about a fortnight before the male. They frequent warrens, downs, and the edges of hills, especially those that are fenced with stone walls. They breed in the latter, in old rabbit borroughs, cliffs, and frequently under old timber: their nest is made of dried grass and horse hair; and they lay from six to eight eggs, of a light blue color. They grow very fat in autumn, and are esteemed a delicacy. About *Eastbourn* in *Sussex* they are taken by the shepherds in great numbers, in snares made of horse hair, placed under a long turf; being very timid birds, the motion of a cloud, or the appearance of a hawk will drive them for shelter into those traps, and so they are taken. The numbers annually ensnared in that district alone, amount to about 1840 dozen, which sell usually at six-pence *per* dozen; and what appears

very extraordinary, the numbers that return the following year do not appear to be lessened, as we are assured by a very intelligent person resident near that place. The reason that such a quantity are taken in the neighborhood of *Eastbourn* is, that it abounds with a certain *fly* which frequents the adjacent hills, for the sake of the wild thyme they are covered with, which is not only a favorite food of that insect, but the plant on which it deposits its eggs.

Descr. The head and back of the male are of a light grey tinged with red : over each eye is a white line ; beneath that is a broad black stroke, passing across each eye to the hind part of the head : the rump and lower half of the tail are white ; the upper half black : the under side of the body is white tinged with yellow ; on the neck it inclines to red : the quill-feathers are black edged with reddish brown. The colors of the female are more dull : it wants that black stroke across the eyes, and the bar of white on the tail is narrower. These birds disappear in *September*.

XII. The WHIN-CHAT.

Le Tarier. *Belon av.* 361.Rubetra. *Gesner av.* 729.

Le grand Traquet, ou le Tarier.

Briffon av. iii. 432. *tab.* 24.*fig.* 1. the Male.*Wil. orn.* 234.*Raii syn. av.* 76.*Motacilla rubetra. Lin. syst.* 332.*Faun. Suec. sp.* 255.*Gestettenschlager. Kram.* 375.*Br. Zool.* 103. *plate S.* 2. *f.* 3. 4.

THIS is also a bird of passage: but we are not certain whether it quits this island, but are rather inclined to think it only shifts its quarters. The head and back are of a pale reddish brown, regularly spotted with black: over each eye is a narrow white stroke, beneath that is a broad bed of black, which extends from the bill to the hind part of the head: the breast is of a reddish yellow: the belly paler: the quill-feathers are brown, edged with a yellowish brown: the upper part of the wing is marked with two white spots: the lower part of the tail is white, the two middle feathers excepted, which are wholly black: the upper part of the others are of the same color. The colors of the female are far less agreeable: in lieu of the white and black marks on the cheeks, is one broad pale brown one: and the white on the wings is in far less quantity than that of the male.

Descr.

XIII. The STONE-CHATTER.

Le Traquet ou Groulard. *Belon*
av. 360.

Rubetra. *Aldr.* av. ii. 325.

Stone-smich, Stone-chatter, or
Moor-titling. *Wil. orn.* 235.

Raii syn. av. 76.

Le Traquet, Rubetra. *Briffon* av.

iii. 428. *tab.* 23. *fig.* 1. The
Male.

Occhio di bue. *Zinan.* 52.

Motacilla rubicola. *Lin. syst.* 332.

Cristoffl. Kram. 375.

Br. Zool. 103. plate S. 2. f. 5, 6.

Descr.

THE entire migration of this bird is also doubtful. With us it is common on gorsy grounds; it is a restless and noisy bird, and perches frequently on some bush, chattering incessantly. The head, neck, and throat are black; but on both sides the latter is a white bar, so that it appears on first sight to be encircled with white: the feathers on the back are black edged with tawny: the lower part of the back just above the rump is white: the end and exterior side of the two outmost feathers of the tail are of a pale rust-color, the rest are black: the breast is of a deep reddish yellow; the belly of a lighter hue: the quill feathers are dusky edged with dull red; those next the body are marked with a white spot near their bottoms: the coverts of the wings are adorned with another. The head of the female is ferruginous spotted with black; and the colors in general less vivid. In both sexes the legs are black; which also is the character of the two preceding species, as well as that next to be described.

XIV. The C O L D F I N C H.

Atricapilla five *Ficedula*. *Aldr.**av.* ii. 331.*Wil. orn.* 236.*Raii syn. av.* 77.*Edw. av.* 30.

Le Traquet d'Angleterre, Rube-

tra Anglicana. *Briffon av.* iii.

436.

Meerschwarzplattl, Baumschalbl,

Kram. 377.*Br. Zool.* plate S. f. 1.

THIS species is inferior in size to the hedge-sparrow : the bill and legs are black : the forehead white : the head, cheeks, and back of a deep black : the coverts of the tail spotted with white : the lesser coverts of the wings dusky ; the greater tip with white : the first quill-feathers black ; the exterior sides of the others white : the middle feathers of the tail are quite black ; the exterior web of the outmost feather is white : the underside of the bird from bill to tail is white. The female differs from the male in these particulars. The head, whole part of the body, and the coverts of the wings are of a dull brown color : it wants the white spot in the forehead ; and the feathers of the wings, which are black in the cock, are dusky in the hen : the white parts also are less, and not so pure in the latter. This species is not very common in this island ; but is sometimes found in *Derbyshire*, *Shropshire*, and *Flintshire*. Descr.

XV. The WHITE-THROAT.

Wil. orn. 236.*Raii syn. av.* 77.La Mesange cendrée, *Parus cinereus*. *Briffon av.* iii. 549.*Motacilla sylvia?* *Lin. syst.* 330.Kogfnetter, *Mefar. Faun. Suec.* sp. 250.*Br. Zool.* 104. plate S. f. 4.

THIS frequents our gardens in the summer time; in the winter it leaves us. It builds in low bushes near the ground, making its nest externally of the tender stalks of herbs and dry straw; the middle part of fine bents and soft grass, the inside of hair. It lays five eggs of a whitish green color, sprinkled with black spots *. The head of this bird is of a brownish ash-color, the throat white: the breast and belly white tinged with red; (in the female wholly white:) the back, and coverts of the wings ferruginous: the quill-feathers dusky, edged with reddish brown; the tail the same; except the upper part of the interior side and whole exterior side of the outmost feather, which are white: the legs are of a yellowish brown.

* *Wil. orn.*

XVI. The WHITE WATER WAGTAIL.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <i>Belon av.</i> 349. | <i>M. alba. Lin. syst.</i> 331. |
| <i>Motacilla alba. Gesner av.</i> 618. | <i>Arla, Sadesarla. Faun. Suec. sp.</i> |
| <i>Aldr. av.</i> ii. 323. | 252. |
| <i>Ballarina, Cutrettola. Olin</i> 43. | <i>Danis Vip-Stiert, Havre-Sæer.</i> |
| <i>Wil. orn.</i> 237. | <i>Norvegis Erle, Lin-Erle. Brun-</i> |
| <i>Raii syn. av.</i> 75. | <i>nich.</i> 271. |
| <i>La Lavandiere. Brisson av.</i> iii. | <i>Grane Bachstelze. Kram.</i> 374. |
| 461. | <i>Br. Zool.</i> 104. |
| <i>Monachina. Zinan.</i> 51. | |

THIS bird frequents the sides of ponds, and small streams; and feeds on insects and worms, as do all the rest of this genus. Mr. *Willoughby* justly observes, that this species shifts its quarters in the winter; moving from the north to the south of *England*, during that season. In spring and autumn, it is a constant attendant of the plough, for the sake of the worms thrown up by that instrument. The head, back, and upper and lower side of the neck as far as the breast, are black: in some the chin is white, and the throat marked with a black crescent: the breast and belly are white: the quill-feathers are dusky: the coverts black tipped and edged with white. The tail is very long, and always in motion. The exterior feather on each side is white: the lower part of the inner web excepted, which is dusky; the others black: the bill, inside of the mouth, and the legs, are black. The back claw very long. Descr.

XVII. The YELLOW WATER WAGTAIL.

Sufurada. *Belon obs.* ii.
 Motacilla flava (Gale Waffar-
 steltz) *Gesner. av.* 618.
Aldr. av. ii. 323.
Wil. orn. 238.
Raii syn. av. 75.
Edw. av. 258. The Male.
 Codatremola. *Zinān.* 51.
 La Bergeronette du Printemps,

Motacilla verna. *Briffon av.*
 iii. 468.
Pl. enl. 28. f. 1.
 Motacilla flava. *Lin. syst.* 331.
Faun. Suec. sp. 253.
 Gulspink. *Brunnich.* 273.
 Gelbe Bachstelze. *Kram.* 374.
Br. Zool. 105.

Descr. **T**HE male is a bird of great beauty: the breast, belly, thighs, and vent feathers, being of a most vivid and lovely yellow: the throat is marked with some large black spots: above the eye is a bright yellow line; beneath that, from the bill cross the eye is another of a dusky hue; and beneath the eye is a third of the same color: the head and whole upper part of the body, is of an olive green, which brightens in the coverts of the tail: the quill-feathers are dusky: the coverts of the wings olive colored, but the lower row is dusky tipped with yellowish white: the outmost feather of the tail white; the others black, as in the former. The colors of the female are far more obscure than those of the male: it wants also those black spots on the throat. It makes its nest on the ground, in corn fields: the outside is composed of decayed stems of plants, and small fibrous roots; the inside is lined with hair: it lays five eggs.

XVIII. The GREY WATER-WAGTAIL.

La Bergerette. *Belon av.* 351.Motacilla flava alia. *Aldr. av.*
ii. 323.*Wil. orn.* 238.*Raii syn. av.* 75.*Edw. av.* 259. The male.La Bergeronette jaune, Motacilla
flava. *Briffon av.* iii. 471.

tab. 23. fig. 3. The Male.

Br. Zool. 105.

THE top of the head, upper part of the neck, and the back of this species are ash-colored; slightly edged with yellowish green: the space round each eye is ash-colored: beneath and above which is a line of white: in the male, the chin and throat are black: the feathers incumbent on the tail are yellow: the tail is longer, in proportion to its size, than that of the other kinds: the two exterior feathers are white; the rest black: the breast, and whole under side of the body are yellow: the quill-feathers are dusky; those next the back edged with yellow. The colors of the female are usually more obscure; and the black spot on the throat is wanting in that sex.

Genus XXI. G R O S B E A K S.

I. The G R O S B E A K.

- Le Grosbec ou Pinson royal.** *Edw. av.* 188. The male.
Belon av. 373. **Le Grosbec.** *Briffon av.* iii.
Coccothraustes (steinbeisser) Ges- 219.
ner av. 276. *Pl. enl.* 99, 100.
Aldr. av. ii. 289. **Loxia coccothraustes.** *Lin. syst.*
Frosone. Olinia 37. 299.
Grosbeak, or Hawfinch. *Wil.* **Stenkneck.** *Faun. Suec. sp.* 222.
orn. 244. **Kernbeis, Nufbeisser.** *Kram.* 365.
Raii syn. av. 85. *Brunnich. in append.*
Charlton ex. 91. *Br. Zool.* 105. plate U, F. 1.

THE birds we describe were shot in *Shropshire*: they visit us only in hard winters, and are not regularly migrant. They feed on berries; and even on the kernels of the strongest stones, such as those of cherries and almonds, which they crack with the greatest facility: their bills are well adapted to that work, being remarkably thick and strong. Mr. *Willoughby* tells us, they are common in *Germany* and *Italy*; that in the summer they live in woods, and breed in hollow trees, laying five or six eggs; but in the winter they come down into the plains.

Descr. The hawfinch weighs near two ounces: its length is seven inches; the breadth thirteen: the bill is of a funnel shape; strong, thick, and of a dull pale pink color; at the base are some orange colored feathers: the irides are grey: the crown of the head and cheeks of a fine deep bay: the chin black: from the bill to the eyes is a black line: the breast and whole under

der side is of a dirty flesh color: the neck ash-colored: the back and coverts of the wings of a deep brown, those of the tail of a yellowish bay: the greater quill-feathers are black, marked with white on their inner webs. The tail is short spotted with white on the inner sides. The legs flesh color. The great particularity of this bird, and what distinguishes it from all others, is the form of the ends of the middle quill feathers; which Mr. *Edwards* justly compares to the figure of some of the antient *battle-axes*: these feathers are glossed over with a rich blue; but are less conspicuous in the female: the head in that sex is of dull olive tinged with brown; it also wants the black spot under the chin.

II. The C R O S S B I L L.

Loxia. Gesner av. 591.

Aldr. av. i. 426.

Shell-apple, or Cross-bill. *Wil. orn. 248.*

Raii. syn. av. 86.

Charlton ex. 77.

Edw. av. 303.

Cat. Carol. app. 37.

Le Bec-croise. *Briffon av. iii.*

329. tab. 17. fig. 3.

Loxia curvirostra. Lin. syst. 299.

Korssnaff, Kinlgelrifvare. *Faun. Suec. sp. 224.*

Krumschnabl, Kreutzvogel.

Kram. 365.

Norveg. Kors-Næb. Kors-fugl.

Br. 238.

Br. Zool. 106. plate U. f. 2.

THERE are two varieties of this bird: Mr. *Edwards* has very accurately figured the lesser kind, which we have seen frequently: the other is very rare. We received a male and female out of *Shropshire*, which were superior in size to the former, the bill remarkably thick and short, more incurvated than

than that of the common kind, and the ends more blunt. These birds, like the former, are inconstant visitants of this island: in *Germany* and *Switzerland* * they inhabit the pine forests, and breed in those trees so early as the months of *January* and *February*. They feed on the seeds of the cones of pines and firs; and are very dexterous in scaling them, for which purpose the cross structure of the lower mandible of their bill is admirably adapted: they feed also on hemp seed, and the pips or kernels of apples, and are said to divide an apple with one stroke of the bill to get at the contents. *Linnaeus* † says, that the upper mandible of this bird is moveable; but on examination we could not discover its structure to differ from that of others of the genus. It is an undoubted fact that these birds change their colors; or rather the shades of their colors: that is, the males which are red, vary at certain seasons to deep red, to orange, or to a sort of a yellow: the females which are green, alter to different varieties of the same color.

* *Gesner* 59. *Kramer Elench.* 365.

† *Faun. Suec. sp.* 224.

III. The BULFINCH.

Le Pivoine. *Belon av.* 359.Asprocolos, *obs.* 13.Rubicilla, five pyrrhula. *Gesner av.* 733.*Aldr. av.* ii. 326.Ciufolotto. *Olin* 40.Bulfinch, Alp, or Nope. *Wil. orn.* 247.*Raii syn. av.* 86.Le Bouvreuil. *Briffon av.* iii. 308.*Pl. enl.* 145.Monachino, Sufolotto. *Zinan.* 58.Loxia pyrrhula. *Lin. syst.* 300.Domherre. *Faun. Suec. sp.* 225.Gumpl. *Kram.* 365.Danis & Norvegi; Dom-pape, quibusdam Dom-Herre. *Br.* 240.*Br. Zool.* 106. plate U. f. 3. 4.

THE wild note of this bird is not in the least musical; but when tamed it becomes remarkably docil, and may be taught any tune after a pipe, or to whistle any notes in the justest manner: it seldom forgets what it has learned. A gentleman in *Lancashire*, had one that could whistle several tunes; and was so well disciplined, that it would come at call, perch on its master's shoulders, and (at command) go through a difficult musical lesson. They may be taught to speak, and some thus instructed are annually brought to *London* from *Frankfort* on the *Maine*.

The male is distinguished from the female by the superior blackness of its crown, and by the rich crimson that adorns the cheeks, breast, belly, and throat of the male; those of the female being of a dirty buff color: the bill is black, short and very thick: the head large: the hind part of the neck and the back are grey: the coverts of the wings are black; the lower crossed with a white line: the quill-feathers dusky, but part of their inner webs white: the coverts

U

of

of the tail and vent feathers white: the tail black.

In the spring these birds frequent our gardens, and are very destructive to our fruit-trees, by eating the tender buds. They breed about the latter end of *May*, or beginning of *June*, and are seldom seen at that time near houses, as they chuse some very retired place to breed in. These birds are sometimes wholly black.

IV. The S P A R R O W.

Le Moineau, Paille, ou Moisson.	<i>Pl. enl.</i> 6. f. 1. 55. f. 1.
<i>Belon av.</i> 361.	<i>Fringilla domestica. Lin. syst.</i>
<i>Passer. Gesner av.</i> 643.	323.
<i>Aldr. av.</i> ii. 246.	Tatting, Grasparf. <i>Faun. Suec.</i>
<i>Passera nostrale. Olin.</i> 42.	<i>sp.</i> 242.
The House-sparrow. <i>Wil. orn.</i>	<i>Danis Graae - Spurre. Norveg.</i>
249.	<i>Huus-Kald. Br.</i> 264.
<i>Raii syn. av.</i> 86.	<i>Hauspatz. Kram.</i> 369.
Le Moineau franc. <i>Briffon av.</i> iii.	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 107.
72.	

Descr. **T**HE bill of the male is black: the crown of the head is grey: under each eye is a black spot; above the corner of each is a broad bright bay mark which surrounds the hind part of the head. The cheeks are white: the chin and under side of the neck are black, the latter edged with white: the belly of a dirty white: the lesser coverts of the wings are of a bright bay: the last row black tipped with white: the great coverts black, outwardly edged with red; the quill-feathers the same: the back spotted with red and black: tail dusky.

The

The lower mandible of the bill of the female is white: beyond each eye is a line of white: the head and whole upper part are brown, only on the back are a few black spots: the black and white marks on the wings are obscure: the lower side of the body is of a dirty white.

Sparrows are proverbially falacious: they breed early in the spring, make their nests under the eaves of houses, in holes of walls, and very often in the nests of the martin, after expelling the owner. *Linnaeus* tells us (a tale from *Albertus Magnus*) that this insult does not pass unrevenge; the injured martin assembles its companions, and by their assistance plaister up the entrance with dirt; then fly away twittering in triumph*, and leave the invader to perish miserably.

V. The GREENFINCH.

Belon av. 365.
Affarandos, obs. 13.
Chloris. Gesner av. 258.
Aldr. av. ii. 371.
Olin. 26.
Wil. orn. 246.
Raii syn. av. 85.
Le Verdier. Brisson av. iii. 190.

Verdone, Verdero, Antone. Zinn. 63.
Loxia chloris. Lin. syst. 304.
Swenska. Faun. Suec. sp. 226.
Svenske. Br. 242.
Grunling. Kram. 368.
Br. Zool. 107.

THE head and back of this bird are of a yellowish green; the edges of the feathers are grey; the rump more yellow: the breast of the same color; the lower belly white: the edges of the outmost quill-feathers

Descr.

* Avolant ovantes. *Vide Faun. Suec.*

are yellow, the next green, the farthest grey : the tail is a little forked : the two middle feathers are wholly dusky : the exterior webs of the four outmost feathers on both sides the tail are yellow. The colors in the female are much less vivid than in the male. These birds are very common in this island : they make their nest in hedges ; the outside is composed of hay or stubble, the middle part of moss, the inside of feathers, wool, and hair. They lay five or six eggs of a pale green color, marked with blood colored spots. Their native note has nothing musical in it ; but a late writer on singing-birds says, they may be taught to pipe or whistle in imitation of other birds.

This bird is so easily tamed, that it frequently eats out of one's hand five minutes after it is taken, if you have an opportunity of carrying it into the dark ; the bird should be then put upon your finger, which it does not attempt to move from (as being in darkness it does not know where to fly) you then introduce the finger of your other hand under its breast, which making it inconvenient to stay upon the first finger, on which it was before placed, it climbs upon the second, where it likewise continues, and for the same reason. When this hath been nine or ten times repeated, and the bird stroked and caressed, it finds that you do not mean to do it any harm ; and if the light is let in by degrees, it will very frequently eat any bruised seed out of your hand, and afterwards continue tame.

Genus XXII. F I N C H E S.

I. The G O L D F I N C H.

Belon av. 353.*Carduelis. Gesner av.* 242.*Aldr. av.* ii. 349.*Cardelli. Olin* 10.*Goldfinch, or Thistlefinch. Wil.*
orn. 256.*Raii syn. av.* 89.*Le Chardonneret. Brisson av.* iii.

53.

Pl. enl. 4. f. 1.*Cardellino. Zinan.* 59.*Fringilla carduelis. Lin. syst.*
318.*Stigitza. Faun. Suec. sp.* 236.*Stiglits. Br.* 257.*Stigitz. Kram.* 365.*Br. Zool.* 108. plate V. f. 1.

THIS is the most beautiful of our hard billed small birds; whether we consider its colors, the elegance of its form, or the music of its note. The bill is white, tipped with black, the base is surrounded with a ring of rich scarlet feathers: from the corners of the mouth to the eyes is a black line: the cheeks are white: the top of the head is black; and the white on the cheeks is bounded almost to the forepart of the neck with black: the hind part of the head is white: the back, rump and breast, are of a fine pale tawny brown, lightest on the two last: the belly is white: the covert feathers of the wings, in the male, are black: the quill-feathers black, marked in their middle with a beautiful yellow; the tips white: the tail is black, but most of the feathers marked near their ends with a white spot: the legs are white.

The female is distinguished from the male by these notes; the feathers at the end of the bill in the former

are brown ; in the male black : the lesser coverts of the wings are brown : and the black and yellow in the wings of the female are less brilliant. The young bird, before it moults, is grey on the head ; and hence it is termed by the bird-catchers a *grey pate*.

There is another variety of goldfinch, which is, perhaps, not taken above once in two or three years, which is called by the *London* bird-catchers a *cheverel*, from the manner in which it concludes its *jerk* : when this sort is taken it sells at a very high price : it is distinguished from the common sort by a white streak or by two, and sometimes three white spots under the throat.

Their note is very sweet, and they are much esteemed on that account, as well as for their great docility. Towards winter they assemble in flocks, and feed on seeds of different kinds, particularly those of the thistle. It is fond of orchards ; and frequently builds in an apple or pear tree : its nest is very elegantly formed of fine moss, liverworts, and bents on the outside ; lined first with wool and hair, and then with the gossin or cotton of the fallow. It lays five white eggs, marked with deep purple spots on the upper end.

This bird seems to have been the *χευσομήτης* * of *Aristotle* ; being the only one that we know of, that could be distinguished by a *golden fillet* round its head, feeding on the seeds of *prickly* plants. The very

* Which he places among the *ἀκανθώδη*. *Scaliger* reads the word *ευσομήτης*, which has no meaning ; neither does the critic support his alteration with any reasons. *Hist. an.* 887.

ingenious translator* of *Virgil's* eclogues and georgics, gives the name of this bird to the *acalanthis* or *acanthis*:

Littoraque alcyonen resonant, acanthida dumi.

In our account of the *Halcyon* of the antients, p. 191. we followed his opinion; but having since met with a passage in *Aristotle* that clearly proves that *acanthis* could not be used in that sense, we beg, that, till we can discover what it really is, the word in that passage may be rendered *linnet*; since it is impossible the philosopher could distinguish a bird of such striking and brilliant colors as the *goldfinch*, by the epithet *κακαχρῶος*, or bad colored, though he celebrates his *acanthis* for a fine note, *φωνὴν μὲν τοι λιγυράν ἔχει* †, which character will suit the linnet equally well.

* Dr. Martyn.

† *Hist. an.* 1055.

II. The CHAFFINCH.

Le Pinson. *Belon av.* 371.
 Fringilla. *Gesner av.* 337.
Aldr. av. ii. 356.
Olin. 31.
Wil. orn. 253.
Raii syn. av. 88.
 Fringuello. *Zinan.* 61.
 Le Pinçon. *Briffon av.* 148.

Pl. enl. 54. f. 1.
 Fringilla cœlebs. *Lin. syst.* 318.
 Fincke, Bofincke. *Faun. Suec. sp.*
 232.
 Finke. *Kram.* 367.
 Bofinke. *Br.* 253.
Br. Zool. 108. plate V. f. 2. 3.

THIS species entertains us agreeably with its song very early in the year; but towards the latter end of summer assumes a chirping note: both sexes continue with us the whole year. What is very singular in *Sweden*, the females quit that country in *September*, migrating in flocks into *Holland*, leaving their mates behind; in the spring they return*: their nest is almost as elegantly constructed as that of the goldfinch, and of much the same materials, only the inside has the addition of some large feathers. They lay four or five eggs, of dull white color, tinged and spotted with deep purple.

Descr. The bill is of a pale blue, the tip black: the feathers on the forehead black: the crown of the head, the hind part and the sides of the neck are of a bluish grey: the space above the eyes, the cheeks, throat and forepart of the neck are red: the sides and belly white, tinged with red: the upper part of the

* *Amœn. acad.* ii. 42. iv. 595.

back of a deep tawny color; the lower part and rump green: the coverts on the very ridge of the wing black and grey; beneath them is a large white spot: the bastard wing and first greater coverts black, the rest tipped with white: the quill-feathers black; their exterior sides edged with pale yellow: their inner and outward webs white on their lower part, so as to form a third white line across the wing: the tail is black, except the outmost feather, which is marked obliquely with a white line from top to bottom; and the next which has a white spot on the end of the inner web: the legs are dusky: the colors of the female are very dull: it entirely wants the red on the breast and other parts: the head and upper part of the body are of a dirty green: the belly and breast of a dirty white: the wings and tail marked much like those of the male.

III. The BRAMBLING.

Le Montain. *Belon av.* 372.

Montifringilla montana. *Gesner av.* 388.

Aldr. av. ii. 358.

Fringuello montanina. *Olin* 32.

Bramble, or Brambling. *Wil. orn.* 254.

Mountain-finch. *Raii syn. av.* 88.

Le Pinçon d'ardennes. *Briffon*

av. iii. 155.

Pl. enl. 54. f. 2.

Fringilla montifringilla. *Lin. syst.* 318.

Norquint. *Faun. Suec. sp.* 233.

Quæker, Bofinkens Hore-Unge, Akerlan. *Brunnich* 255.

Nicowitz, Mecker, Piencken. *Kram.* 367.

Br. Zool. 108. plate V. f. 4.

THIS bird is not very common in these islands; and is chiefly found in the hilly parts. It is superior in size to the chaffinch: the top of the head is of

Descr.

of a glossy black slightly edged with a yellowish brown: the feathers of the back are of the same colors, but the edges more deeply bordered with brown: the chin, throat and breast are of an orange color: the lesser coverts of the wings of the same color; but those incumbent on the quill-feathers barred with black, tipt with orange: the inner coverts at the base of the wings are of a fine yellow: the quill-feathers are dusky; but their exterior sides edged with yellow; the feathers immediately incumbent on them are of a deep black, tipt with orange: the tail a little forked: the exterior web of the outmost feather is white, the others black, except the two middle, which are edged and tipt with ash-color.

IV. The MOUNTAIN SPARROW.

Passerinus. Gesner av. 656.

Aldr. av. ii. 261.

Olin. 48.

Wil. orn. 252.

Raii syn. av. 87.

Edw. av. 269.

Le Moineau de Montagne, Passer

montanus. Brisson av. iii. 79.

Passere Montano. Zin. 81.

Fringilla montana. Lin. syst. 324.

Faun. Suec. sp. 243.

Skov-Spurre. Brunnich 267.

Feldspatz, Rohrspatz. Kram. 370.

Br. Zool. 109.

Descr.

THE crown and hind part of the head is of a rusty red. The throat is marked with a large black spot: beneath each ear is another. The space beneath the eyes, and the whole under side of the body are white: the hind part of the neck is encircled with white: the borders of the feathers of the back are ferruginous, their middle black: the covert feathers

feathers of the wings are ferruginous edged with white; the row beneath them are marked in the same manner: the tail is dusky edged with a brownish ash-color: the bill is black; the legs flesh-colored.

We are obliged to Mr. *Edwards* for this description, who first discovered them to be natives of *Yorkshire*. A bird, which he supposes to be the female, agreed in most particulars with the male, but wants the black spot on the throat and beneath the ears; and the edges of the tail feathers are of a lighter hue.

V. The S I S K I N.

Belon av. 354.

Acanthis, spinus, ligurinus. Ges-

ner av. 1.

Aldr. av. ii. 352.

Lucarino. Olini 17.

Wil. orn. 261.

Raii syn. av. 91.

Le Serin. Brisson av. iii. 65.

Fringilla spinus. Lin. syst. 322.

Siska, Gronsfka. Faun. Suec. sp.

237.

Sisgen. Brunnich 261.

Zeisel, Zeiserl. Kram. 366.

Br. Zool. 109. plate V.

WE are unacquainted with this bird; therefore must abridge Mr. *Willoughby's* account of it.

The head is black: the neck and back are green; Descr.
but the shafts on the latter are black: the rump is of a greenish yellow: the throat and breast the same: the belly white: the vent feathers yellowish, marked with oblong dusky spots in their middle: the pinion quill is dusky edged with green: the outward webs of the nine next quill-feathers are green; the green part is widened by degrees in every feather, till in the last it takes up half the length: from the tenth almost the lower

lower half of each feather is yellow, the upper black: the exterior coverts of the wings are black: the two middle feathers of the tail are black; the rest above half way are of a most lovely yellow, with black tips. The colors of the female are paler: her throat and sides are white spotted with brown: the head and back are of a greenish ash-color, marked also with brown.

Mr. *Willoughby* tells us, that this is a song-bird: that in *Sussex* it is called the *barly-bird*, because it comes to them in *barly-feed* time. We are informed that it visits these islands at very uncertain times, like the grosbeak, &c. It is to be met with in the bird shops in *London*, and being rather a scarce bird, sells at a higher price than the merit of its song deserves: it is known there by the name of the *Aberdavine*. The bird catchers have a notion of its coming out of *Russia*. Dr. *Kramer* * informs us, that this bird conceals its nest with great art; though there are infinite numbers of young birds in the woods, on the banks of the *Danube*, that seem just to have taken flight, yet no one could discover it.

* *Kramer elench.* 366.

VI. The L I N N E T.

Belon av. 356.

Linaria, Henfling, Schofzling,

Flacklin. *Gesner av.* 590.

Aldr. av. ii. 359.

Wil. orn. 258.

Raii syn. av. 90.

Fanello. *Zinan.* 61.

La Linotte. *Briffon av.* iii. 131.

Pl. enl. 151. f. 1.

Br. Zool. 110.

THE bill of this species is dusky, but in the spring assumes a bluish cast: the feathers on the head are black edged with ash-color: the sides of the neck deep ash-color: the throat marked in the middle with a brown line; bounded on each side with a white one: the back, black bordered with reddish brown: the bottom of the breast is of a fine blood red: which heighthens in color as the spring advances: the belly white: the vent feathers yellowish: the sides under the wings spotted with brown: the quill-feathers are dusky; the lower part of the nine first white: the coverts incumbent on them black; the others of a reddish brown; the lowest order tipt with a paler color: the tail is a little forked, of a brown color, edged with white; the two middle feathers excepted, which are bordered with dull red. The females and young birds want the red spot on the breast; in lieu of that, their breasts are marked with short streaks of brown pointing downwards: the females have also less white in their wings. Deser]

These birds are much esteemed for their song: they feed on seeds of different kinds, which they peel before they eat: the seed of the *linum* or *flax* is their

their favorite food ; from whence the name of the linnet tribe.

They breed among furze and white thorn : the outside of their nest is made with moss and bents ; and lined with wool and hair. They lay five whitish eggs spotted like those of the goldfinch.

VII. The GREATER RED-HEADED LINNET, OR REDPOLL.

Linaria rubra. *Gesner av.* 591.

Fanello marino. *Aldr. av.* ii.

360.

Wil. orn. 260.

Raii syn. av. 91.

La grande Linotte des vignes.

Briffon av. iii. 135.

Fringilla cannabina. *Lin. syst.*

322.

Hampling. Faun. Suec. sp. 240.

Torn-Irisk. Brunnich 263.

Hauefferl, Hampling. Kram.

368.

Br. Zool. 110.

Descr. **T**HIS bird is less than the former : on the forehead is a blood-colored spot ; the rest of the head ash color : the breast is tinged with a fine rose-color : the head and neck are of an ash-color : the back, scapular feathers, and coverts of the wings are of a bright reddish brown : the first quill-feather is entirely black ; the exterior and interior edges of the eight following are white, which forms a bar of that color on the wing, even when closed : the sides are yellow ; the middle of the belly white : the tail, like that of the former, is forked, of a dusky color, edged on both sides with white, which is broadest on the inner webs. The head of the female is ash-color spotted with black : the back and scapulars are of a dull brownish red : and the breast and sides of a dirty yellow,

yellow, streaked with dusky lines. It is a common fraud in the bird-shops in *London*, when a male bird is distinguished from the female by a red breast, as in the case of this bird, to stain or paint the feathers, so that the deceit is not easily discovered, at least close inspection.

These birds are frequent on our sea-coasts; and are often taken in *flight* time near *London*: it is a familiar bird; and is as chearful five minutes after it is caught as a *French* prisoner is said to be after the same short captivity.

VIII. The LESSER RED-HEADED LINNET.

Wil. orn. 260.

Raii syn. av. 91.

La petite Linotte des vignes.

Briffon av. iii. 138.

Pl. enl. 151. f. 2.

Fringilla linaria. Lin. syst. 322.

Grafiska. Faun. Suec. sp. 241.

Grafel, Meerzeisel, Tischotischerl.

Kram. 369.

Br. Zool. 111.

THIS is the least of the linnets, being scarce half the size of the preceding. Its bill is dusky, Descr. but the base of the lower mandible yellow: the forehead ornamented with a rich shining spot of a purplish red: the breast is of the same color, but not so bright; yet in the breasts of some we have found the red wanting: the belly is white: the back dusky edged with reddish brown: the sides in some yellowish, in others ash-color, but both marked with narrow dusky lines: the quill-feathers, and those of the tail are dusky, bordered with dirty white: the coverts dusky,

dusky, edged with white, so as to form two transverse lines of that color. The spot on the forehead of the female is of a saffron color. The legs are dusky.

Mr. *Willoughby* gives us these notes to distinguish it from the last species. I. It is less. II. The bill is lesser and sharper. III. Both sexes have the spot on the head. IV. Its legs and feet are blacker. V. The tail has less white in it. VI. This species is gregarious, the other not.

We have seen the nest of this species on an *alder* stump near a brook, between two or three feet from the ground: it was made on the outside with dried stalks of grass and other plants, and here and there a little wool, the lining was hair and a few feathers: the bird was *sitting* on four eggs of a pale bluish green, thickly sprinkled near the blunt end with small reddish spots. The bird was so tenacious of her nest, as to suffer us to take her off with our hand, and we found that after we had released her she would not forsake it.

This seems to be the species known about *London* under the name of the *stone redpoll*.

IX. The MOUNTAIN LINNET, OR TWITE.

Le Picaveret? *Belon av.* 358.

Wil. orn. 261.

Raii syn. av. 91.

Linaria montana. *Linaria minima.*

La petite Linotte, ou le Cabaret.

Briffon av. iii. 142, 145.

Linaria fera saxatilis. *Klein. hist.*

av. 93.

Br. Zool. 111.

THIS is an inhabitant of the hilly parts of our country, as Mr. *Willoughby* informs us. He says it is twice the size of the last species: that the color of the head and back is the same with that of the common linnet: that the feathers on the throat and breast are black edged with white: the rump is of a rich scarlet or orange tawny-color. The edges of the middle quill-feathers are white, as are the tips of those of the second row: the two middle feathers of the tail are of a uniform dusky-color; the others edged with white. This species is taken in the flight season near *London* with the linnets; it is there called a *Twite*. The birds we examined differed in some particulars from Mr. *Willoughby*'s description. In size Descr. they are rather inferior to the common linnet, and of a more taper make: their bills short and entirely yellow: above and below each eye is a pale brown spot: the edges of the greater coverts of the wings white; in other respects both agree. The female wants the red mark on the rump.

These birds take their name from their note, which has no music in it: it is a familiar bird, and more easily tamed than the common *linnet*.

We believe it breeds only in the *Northern* parts of our island.

Here it may not be improper to mention the *Canary bird**, which is of the finch tribe. It was originally peculiar to those isles, to which it owes its name; the same that were known to the antients by the addition of the *fortunate*. The happy temperament of the air, the spontaneous productions of the ground in the varieties of fruits; the sprightly and chearful disposition of the inhabitants†; and the harmony arising from the number of the birds found there‡, procured them that romantic distinction. Though the antients celebrate the isle of *Canaria* for the multitude of birds, they have not mentioned any in particular. It is probable then, that our species was not introduced into *Europe* till after the second discovery of these isles, which was between the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. We are uncertain when it first made its appearance in this quarter of the globe. *Belon*, who wrote in 1555, is silent in respect to these birds: *Gesner*|| is the first who mentions

* *Wil. orn.* 262. *Raii syn. av.* 91. *Vide Serin des Canaries. Brisson av.* iii. 184. *Fringilla Canaria. Lin. syst.* 321.

† *Fortunatae insulae abundant sua sponte genitis, et subinde aliis super aliis innascentibus nihil sollicitos alunt; beatius quam aliae urbes excubae. Mela de sit. orb.* iii. 17. He then relates, the vast flow of mirth among this happy people, by a figurative sort of expression, that alludes to their tempering discretion with their jollity, and never suffering it to exceed the bounds of prudence. This he delivers under the notion of two fountains found among them, *alterum qui gustavere risu solvuntur in mortem; ita affectis remedium est ex altero bibere.*

‡ *Omnes copia pomorum, et avium omnis generis abundant, &c. Plin. lib. vi. c. 32.*

|| *Gesner av.* 240.

them;

them; and *Aldrovand** speaks of them as rarities, that they were very dear on account of the difficulty attending the bringing them from so distant a country, and that they were purchased by people of rank alone. *Olin*† says, that in his time there was a degenerate sort found on the isle of *Elba*, off the coast of *Italy*, which came there originally by means of a ship bound from the *Canaries* to *Leghorn*, and was wrecked on that island. We once saw some small birds brought directly from the *Canary Islands*, that we suspect to be the genuine sort; they were of a dull green color, but as they did not sing, we supposed them to be hens. These birds will produce with the goldfinch and linnet, and the offspring is called a mule-bird, because, like that animal, it proves barren.

They are still found‡ on the same spot to which we were first indebted for the production of such charming songsters; but they are now become so numerous in our own country, that we are under no necessity of crossing the ocean for them.

* *Aldr. av. ii. 355.*

† *Olin uccel. 7.*

‡ *Glas's hist. Canary Isles, 199.*

Genus XXIII. BUNTINGS.

I. The BUNTING.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Le Proyer, Prier, ou Pruyer. | Petrone, Capparone, Stardacchio. |
| <i>Belon av.</i> 266. | <i>Zinan.</i> 63. |
| Emberiza alba. <i>Gesner av.</i> 654. | Emberiza Miliaria. <i>Lin. syst.</i> 308. |
| <i>Aldr. av.</i> ii. 264. | <i>Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 228. |
| Strillozzo. <i>Olina</i> , 44. | Korn Larkor. <i>Lin. it. scan.</i> 292. |
| <i>Wil. orn.</i> 267. | <i>tab.</i> 4. |
| <i>Raii syn. av.</i> 93. | <i>Cimbris</i> Korn-Lærke. <i>Norveg.</i> |
| Le Proyer, Cynchramus. <i>Briffon</i> | Knotter. <i>Brunnich</i> 247. |
| <i>av.</i> iii. 292. | Brasler. <i>Kram.</i> 372. |
| <i>Pl. enl.</i> 30. | <i>Br. Zool.</i> III. plate W. f. 7. |

Descr.

THE bill of this bird, and the other species of this genus, is singularly constructed; the sides of the upper mandible form a sharp angle, bending inwards towards the lower; and in the roof of the former is a hard knob, adapted to bruise corn or other hard feeds. The throat, breast, sides and belly are of a yellowish white: the head and upper part of the body of a pale brown, tinged with olive; each of which (except the belly) are marked with oblong black spots; towards the rump the spots grow fainter. The quill-feathers are dusky, their exterior edges of a pale yellow. The tail is a little forked, of a dusky hue, edged with white: the legs are of a pale yellow. This we believe to be a bird of passage; at least in *North-wales*, it appears only in the summer.

II. The

II. The YELLOW-HAMMER.

Belon av. 366.

Emberiza flava. Gesner av. 653.

Cia pagglia riccia, Luteæ alterum genus. Aldr. av. ii. 372.

Wil. orn. 268.

Raii syn. av. 93.

Le Bruant. Brisson av. iii. 258.

Pl. enl. 30. f. 2.

Emberiza citrinella. Lin. syst.

309.

Groning, Golspink. Faun. Suec. sp. 230.

Ammering, Goldammering. Kram.

370.

Br. Zool. 112.

THIS species makes a large flat nest on the ground, near or under a bush or hedge; the materials are moss, dried roots and horse hair interwoven. It lays six eggs of a white color, veined with a dark purple: is one of our commonest birds, and in winter frequents our farm yards with other small birds.

The bill is of a dusky hue: the crown of the head is of a pleasant pale yellow; in some almost plain, in others spotted with brown: the hind part of the neck is tinged with green: the chin and throat are yellow: the breast is marked with an orange red: the belly yellow: the lesser coverts of the wings are green; the others dusky, edged with rust color: the back of the same colors: the rump of a rusty red: the quill-feathers dusky, their exterior sides edged with yellowish green: the tail is a little forked; the middle feathers are brown; the two middlemost edged on both sides with green; the others on their exterior sides only: the interior sides of the two outmost feathers are marked obliquely near their ends with white.

Deser.

III. The REED - SPARROW.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Schoeniclus. <i>Gesner av.</i> 573,
652. | nus arundinaceus. <i>Briffon av.</i>
iii. 274. |
| <i>Wil. orn.</i> 269. | <i>Fringilla schoeniclus. Lin. syst.</i>
311. |
| <i>Raii syn. av.</i> 93. | <i>Saf-sparf. Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 231. |
| The Nettle-monger. <i>Morton.</i>
<i>Northampt.</i> 428. | <i>Rohrammering, Meerspatz.</i>
<i>Kram.</i> 371. |
| Ror-Spurv. <i>Brunich.</i> 251. | <i>Br. Zool.</i> 112. plate W. |
| L'Ortulan de Roseaux, Hortula- | |

THE reed sparrow inhabites marshy places, most commonly among reeds; from which it takes its name. Its nest is worthy notice for the artful contrivance of it, being fastened to four reeds, and suspended by them like a hammock, about three feet above the water; the cavity of the nest is deep, but narrow, and the materials are decayed rushes, fine bents and hairs; it lays four or five eggs, of a bluish white, marked with irregular purplish veins, especially on the larger end. It is a bird much admired for its song, and like the nightingale it sings in the night.

Descr. In the male, the head, chin and throat are black: at each corner of the mouth commences a white ring, which encircles the head. The whole under side of the body is white. The back, coverts of the wings, and the scapular feathers are black, deeply bordered with red. The two middle feathers of the tail are of the same colors; the three next black. The exterior web, and part of the interior of the outmost feather

feather is white. The head of the female is rust-colored, spotted with black; it wants the white ring round the neck; but in most other respects resembles the male.

IV. The GREATER BRAMBLING.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>Avis ignota a Piperino missa. Ges-</i> | <i>Br. 245.</i> |
| <i>av. 798.</i> | <i>Snow-bird. Edw. av. 126.</i> |
| Great pied Mountain Finch, or | <i>Egede Greenl. 64.</i> |
| Brambling. <i>Wil. orn. 255.</i> | <i>Martin's Spitzberg. 73.</i> |
| <i>Raii syn. av. 88.</i> | <i>Emberiza nivalis. Lin. syst. 308.</i> |
| L'Ortolan de Neige, Hortulanus | <i>Snosparf, Hardvarsfogel. Faun.</i> |
| <i>nivalis. Brisson av. iii. 285.</i> | <i>Suec. sp. 227.</i> |
| <i>Cimbris Sneekok. Vinter fugl.</i> | <i>Br. Zool. 112. plate f. 6.</i> |
| <i>Norveg. Snee fugl. Fiælster.</i> | |

THE weight of this bird is rather more than an ounce: the length is six inches three-quarters: the breadth twelve inches three-quarters. The bill is very short; yellow, except the point, which is black. The crown of the head is of a tawny color, darkest near the forehead: the whole neck is of the same color, but paler: the throat almost white: the upper part of the breast is of a dull yellow; the breast and whole under part of the body white, dashed with a yellowish tinge. The back and scapular feathers are black, edged with a pale reddish brown: the rump and covert feathers of the tail are white on their lower half; on their upper, yellow.

The tail consists of twelve feathers, and is a little forked: the three exterior feathers are white: the two outmost marked with a dusky spot on the ex-

terior side ; the third is marked with the same color on both sides the tip : the rest of the tail feathers are entirely dusky. The wings, when closed, reach about the middle of the tail : the color, of as much of the six first quill-feathers that appear in view, are dusky, slightly tipped with a reddish white : their lower part on both sides white : in the seven succeeding feathers the dusky color gradually gives place to the white ; which in the seventh of these possesses the whole feather, except a small spot on the exterior upper side of each ; the two next are wholly white : the rest of the quill-feathers and the scapular feathers are black, edged with a pale red : the bastard wing, and the outmost secondary feathers are of the same color with the quill-feathers : the rest of them, together with the coverts, are entirely white, forming one large bed of white. The legs, feet and claws are black : the hind toe is very long, like that of a lark, but not so strait.

Sometimes in this, but always in the *arctic* countries, the whole bird, except the back, end, of the quill-feathers, and the four middle feathers of the tail, is white ; those parts being with us partly tawny, partly black. In the northern regions, generally black or dusky. In *England* they are mistaken for white larks, as they have a long back claw, like the lark kind. These birds inhabit all the northern parts of the world, even as far as the rigorous climate of *Greenland* and *Spitzbergen* ; where very few land fowl are found. In severe winters, they are forced by the cold into this country ; but we do not find that they breed here :
we

we seldom see them wholly white; but *Linnæus* tells us, that in *Lapland*, &c. in the winter, they assume the color of the snow, from whence their name; that they sit on the ground, feed on oats, wake in the night, and are a delicious food.

V. The LESSER BRAMBLING.

Lesser Mountain-finch, or Brambling. *Wil. orn.* 255. *Morton Northampt.* 423. *tab.* 13. *fig.* 3. *Br. Zool.* 113.

WE are obliged to borrow the following description from the account Mr. *Johnson* transmitted to Mr. *Ray*; having never seen the bird. Mr. *Ray* suspected that it was only a variety of the former, but Mr. *Morton*, having frequent opportunity of examining this species, proves it to be a distinct kind.

According to Mr. *Johnson*, its bill is short, thick, and strong; black at the point, the rest yellow. The forehead is of a dark chestnut; the hind part of the head and cheeks of a lighter; the hind part of the neck, and the back are ash-colored; the latter more spotted with black; the throat is white: the breast and belly waved with flame color; at the setting on of the wing grey; the five first feathers are of a blackish brown, the rest white with the point of each dashed with brown: the three outmost feathers of the tail are white; the rest dark brown; the feet black; the hind claw as low again as any of the rest.

Descr.

The breast of the female is of a darker color than that of the male. This species, by the above-mentioned writer's account, is found in *Yorkshire* and *Northamptonshire*.

Genus XXIV. TITMICE.

I. The GREAT TITMOUSE.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Nonette ou Mefange. <i>Belon av.</i> | <i>Lin. syst.</i> 341. |
| 367. | Talg-oxe. <i>Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 265. |
| Parus major. <i>Gesner av.</i> 640. | Le grosse Mefange, ou la Char- |
| <i>Aldr. av.</i> ii. 319. | bonniere. <i>Briffon av.</i> iii. 539. |
| Spernuzzola, Parussola. <i>Olin</i> 28. | <i>Pl. enl.</i> 3. f. 1. |
| Great Titmouse, or Ox-eye. <i>Wil.</i> | <i>Musvit. Brunnich.</i> 287. |
| <i>orn.</i> 240. | Kohlmeise. <i>Kram.</i> 378. |
| <i>Raii syn. av.</i> 73. | <i>Br. Zool.</i> 113. plate W. f. 4. |

THIS species sometimes visits our gardens; but chiefly inhabites woods, where it builds in hollow trees, laying about ten eggs. This, and the whole tribe feed on insects, which they find in the bark of trees; in the spring they do a great deal of mischief in the fruit garden, by picking off the tender buds. Like wood-peckers they are perpetually running up and down the bodies of trees in quest of food.

Descr. The head and throat of this species are black; the cheeks white; the back, and coverts of the wings green; the belly of a yellowish green, divided in the middle by a bed of black, which extends to the vent; the rump is of a bluish grey. The quill-feathers are dusky, tipt partly with blue, partly with white. The lesser coverts are blue: the greater tipt with white.

Class II. BLUE TITMOUSE. 325

white. The exterior sides of the outmost feather of the tail are white : the exterior sides of the other bluish : their interior sides dusky : the legs lead color.

II. The BLUE TITMOUSE.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Belon av.</i> 369. | <i>Pl. enl.</i> 3. f. 2. |
| <i>Parus cœruleus. Gesner av.</i> 641. | <i>Parozolino, o Fratino. Zinan.</i> |
| <i>Aldr. av.</i> ii. 321. | 76. |
| Blue Titmouse, or Nun. <i>Wil.</i> | <i>Lin. syst.</i> 341. |
| <i>orn.</i> 242. | <i>Blamees. Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 267. |
| <i>Raii syn. av.</i> 74. | <i>Blaaemeise. Br.</i> 288. |
| <i>La Mefange Bleue. Brisson av.</i> iii. | <i>Blaumeise. Kram.</i> 379. |
| 544. | <i>Br. Zool.</i> 114. plate W. f. 5. |

THIS bird frequents gardens, and does great injury to fruit trees, by bruising the young buds in search of the insects that lurk under them ; it breeds in holes of walls and lays about twelve or fourteen eggs.

It is a very beautiful species, the bill is short and dusky : the crown of the head of a fine blue : from the bill to the eyes is a black line : the forehead and cheeks are white : the back is of a yellowish green : the lower side of the body yellow : the wings and tail blue, the former marked transversely with a white bar : the legs of a lead color.

Descr.

III. The

III. The COLEMOUSE.

- Quatriesme espece de Mesange. La Mesange a teste noire, *Parus*
Belon av. 370. *atricapillus. Briffon av. iii.*
Parus ater. Gesner av. 641. 551.
Aldr. av. ii. 321. *Cat. Carol. app. 37.*
Wil. orn. 241. *P. ater. Lin. syst. 341.*
Raii syn. av. 73. *Faun. Suec. sp. 268.*
Speermiese, Creuzmeise. Kram. Br. Zool. 114.
 379.

Descr. **T**HE head of the colemouse is black, marked on the hind part with a white spot; the back is of a greenish grey; the rump more green; the tail and wings dusky; the exterior sides of the quill-feathers edged with green; the coverts of the wings are of a dusky green; the lowest tipt with white. For a farther account we beg leave to refer to the next description.

IV. The MARSH TITMOUSE.

- Parus palustris. Gesner av. 641.* iii. 555.
Paronzino. Aldr. av. ii. 32. *Pl. enl. 3. f. 3.*
Marsh Titmouse, or Black-cap. Lin. syst. 341. 190.
Wil. orn. *Entita, Tomlinge. Faun. Suec.*
Raii syn. av. 73. *sp. 269.*
Fratino palustre. Zinan. 77. *Hundsmeise. Kram. 379.*
La Mesange de Marais ou la Norvegis Graae-Meise. Brunnich.
Nonette cendrée. Briffon av. Br. Zool. 114. plate W. f. 3.

THIS species is called by *Gesner* the marsh titmouse; because it frequents wet places. With us they inhabite woods, with the last kind; and seldom infest our gardens.

Mr.

Class II. LONG TAILED TITMOUSE. 327

Mr. *Willoughby* observes that this bird differs from the former in these particulars, 1st, that it is bigger : 2d, that it wants the white spot on the head : 3d, it has a larger tail : 4th, its under side is white : 5th, it has less black under the chin : 6th, it wants the white spot on the coverts of the wings. This last distinction does not hold in general, as the subject figured in the *British Zoology* had those spots ; yet wanted that on the hind part of the head.

V. The LONG TAILED TITMOUSE.

Belon av. 368.

Parus caudatus. Gesner av. 642.

Monticola. Aldr. av. ii. 319.

Wil. orn. 242.

Raii syn. av. 74.

Pendolino, Paronzino. Zinan.
77.

La Mefange a longue queue Parus
longicaudus. Brisson av. iii,
570.

Lin. syst. 342.

Alhtita. Faun. Suec. sp. 83.

Belzmeise Pfannenstiel. Kram.
379.

THE length is five inches and a quarter ; the Descr.
breadth seven inches. The bill is black,
very short, thick, and very convex, differing greatly
from all others of the titmouse kind : the base is
beset with small bristles : the irides are of a hazel
color. The top of the head, from the bill to the
hind part, is white, mixed with a few dark grey
feathers ; this bed of white is entirely surrounded
with a broad stroke of black, which rising on each
side the upper mandible, passes over each eye, unites
at the hind part of the head ; and continues along
the middle of the back to the rump : the feathers
on each side of this black stroke are of a purplish red,

as are those immediately incumbent on the tail. The covert feathers of the wings are black : the secondary and quill-feathers are dusky, the largest of the latter are wholly so ; the lesser and more remote have their exterior sides edged with white. The tail is the longest in proportion to the bulk of any *British* bird, being in length three inches ; the form of it is like that of a magpie, consisting of twelve feathers of unequal lengths, the middlemost the longest, those on each side growing gradually shorter ; the exterior sides, and the top of the interior sides of the three outmost feathers are white ; the rest of the tail black. The cheeks and throat are white : the breast and whole under side white, with a cast of red. The legs, feet and claws are black.

It forms its nest with great elegance, of an oval shape, and about eight inches deep ; near the upper end is a hole for admission : the external materials are mosses and lichens, curiously interwoven with wool ; within it is lined very warmly with a thick bed of feathers : it lays from ten to seventeen eggs. The young follow the parents the whole winter ; and from the slimness of their bodies, and great length of tail, appear, while flying, like so many darts cutting the air.

OF THE
SMALL BIRDS OF FLIGHT.

IN the suburbs of *London* (and particularly *Shoreditch*) are several weavers and other tradesmen, who, during the months of *October* and *March*, get their livelihood by an ingenious, and we may say, a scientific method of bird-catching, which is totally unknown in other parts of *Great-Britain*.

The reason of this trade being confined to so small a compass, arises from there being no considerable sale for singing birds except in the *metropolis*: as the apparatus for this purpose is also heavy, and at the same time must be carried on a man's back, it prevents the bird-catchers going to above three or four miles distance.

This method of bird-catching must have been long practised, as it is brought to a most systematical perfection, and is attended with a very considerable expence.

The nets are a most ingenious piece of mechanism, are generally twelve yards and a half long, and two yards and a half wide; and no one on bare inspection would imagine that a bird (who is so very quick in all its motions) could be caught by the nets flapping
over

over each other, till he becomes eye witness of the pullers seldom failing*.

The wild birds *fly* (as the bird-catchers term it) chiefly during the month of *October*, and part of those of *September* and *November*: the *flight* in *March* being much less considerable than it is at *Michaelmas*. It is to be noted also, that the several species of these *birds of flight* do not make their appearance at the same time, but at different periods, during the months of *September*, *October* and *November*; for instance, the *pippit* † begins his flight every year about *Michaelmas*, when they are caught in the greatest numbers: to this the *woodlark* succeeds, and continues his flight till towards the middle of *October*; and it is very remarkable, though both these species of birds are most easily caught during their *flight*, yet when that is over, no art can seduce them into the nets. When the *woodlark's* second *flight* begins, which is in *February*, they are as easily caught as before: the other birds are not quite so punctually periodical in their *flight*; the *greenfinch* does not begin his till the frosts set in.

The birds, during those months, *fly* from day break to twelve at noon, and there is afterwards a small *flight* from two till night; though this is so inconsiderable, that the bird-catchers always take up their nets at noon.

* These nets are known in most parts of *England* by the name of *day-nets* or *clap-nets*; but all we have seen are far inferior in their mechanism to those used near *London*.

† A small lark; but which is much inferior to other birds of this species in point of singing.

It may well deserve the attention of the naturalist whence these periodical flights of certain birds can arise. The vernal flight seems to be owing to the influence of the season of love: they are then in search of fit places to indulge their passion, and secure retreats for their nests and younglings: on the contrary, the autumnal flight, which is most numerous, consists in great part of the parents conducting the new fledged young to those places where there is found provision, and a proper temperament of air during the winter season.

It may not be improper to mention another circumstance, to be observed during their passage, *viz.* that they fly always against the wind; (except the *chaffinch*, who flies across the wind; that is, if the wind is south, it flies from the west; if north, from the east) hence, there is great contention amongst the bird-catchers who shall gain the wind; which, if (for example) it is westerly, the bird-catcher who lays his nets most to the east, is sure almost of catching every thing, if his call-birds are good: a gentle wind to the south-west generally produces the best sport.

The bird-catcher, who is a substantial man, and hath a proper apparatus for this purpose, generally carries with him five or six *linnets* (of which more are caught than any other singing bird) two *goldfinches*, two *greenfinches*, one *woodlark*, one *redpoll*, and perhaps a *bull-finch*; a *yellowhammer*, *titlark*, and *aberdavine*; these are placed at small distances from the nets in little cages. He hath, besides, what are called *flur-birds*, which are placed within the nets,

Y

are

are raised upon the *flur* *, and gently let down at the time the wild bird approaches them: these generally consist of the *linnet*, the *goldfinch*, and the *greenfinch*: these birds are secured to the *flur* by what is called a *brace* †; a contrivance that secures the birds without doing any injury to their plumage.

It having been found that there is a superiority and ascendancy between bird and bird, from the one being more *in song* than the other; the bird-catchers contrive that their *call-birds* should moult before the usual time. They, therefore, in *June* or *July*, put them into a close box, under two or three folds of blankets, and leave their dung in the cage to raise a greater heat; in which state they continue, being perhaps examined but once a week to have fresh water: as for food, the air is so putrid, that they eat little during the whole state of confinement, which lasts about a month. The birds frequently die under the operation ‡; and hence the value of a *stopped-bird* rises greatly.

When the bird hath thus prematurely moulted, he is *in song*, whilst the wild birds are *out of song*, and his note is louder and more piercing than that of a wild

* A moveable perch to which the bird is tied, and which the bird-catcher can raise at pleasure, by means of a long string fastened to it.

† A sort of bandage, formed of a slender silken string that is fastened round the bird's body, and under the wings, in so artful a manner as to hinder the bird from being hurt, let it flutter ever so much in the raising.

‡ We have been lately informed by an experienced bird-catcher, that he pursues a cooler regimen in *stopping* his birds, and that he therefore seldom loses one: but we suspect that there is not the same certainty of making them moult.

one ; but it is not only in his note he receives an alteration, the plumage is equally improved; the black and yellow in the wings of the *goldfinch*, for example, become deeper and more vivid, together with a most beautiful gloss, which is not to be seen in the wild bird : the bill, which in the latter is likewise black at the end, in the *stopped-bird* becomes white, and more taper, as do its legs : in short, there is as much difference between a wild and a *stopped-bird*, as there is between a horse which is kept in body cloaths, or at grass.

When the bird-catcher hath laid his nets, he disposes of his *call-birds* at proper intervals. It must be owned, that there is a most malicious joy in these *call-birds* to bring the wild ones into the same state of captivity ; which may likewise be observed with regard to decoy ducks.

Their sight and hearing infinitely excels that of the bird-catcher. The instant that the * wild birds are perceived, notice is given by one to the rest of the *call-birds*, (as it is by the first hound that hits on the scent, to the rest of the pack) after which, follows the same sort of tumultuous ecstasy and joy. The *call-birds*, while the bird is at a distance, do not sing as a bird does in a chamber ; they invite the wild ones by what the bird-catchers call *short jerks*, which when the birds are good, may be heard at a great distance : the ascendancy by this call or invitation is

* It may be also observed, that the moment they see a hawk, they communicate the alarm to each other by a plaintive note ; nor will they then *jerk* or call though the wild birds are near.

so great, that the wild bird is stopped in its course of flight, and if not already acquainted with the nets*, lights boldly within twenty yards of perhaps three or four bird-catchers, on a spot which otherwise it would not have taken the least notice of; nay, it frequently happens, that if half a flock only are caught, the remaining half will immediately afterwards light in the nets, and share the same fate; and should only one bird escape, that bird will suffer itself to be pulled at, till it is caught, such a fascinating power have the *call-birds*.

While we are on this subject of the *jerking* of birds, we cannot omit mentioning, that the bird-catchers frequently lay considerable wagers whose *call-bird* can *jerk* the longest, as that determines the superiority. They place them opposite to each other, by an inch of candle, and the bird who *jerks* the oftenest, before the candle is burnt out, wins the wager. We have been informed, that there have been instances of a bird's giving a hundred and seventy *jerks* in a quarter of an hour; and we have known a linnet, in such a trial, persevere in its emulation till it swooned from the perch: thus, as *Pliny* says of the nightingale, *vieta morte finit sæpe vitam, spiritu prius deficiente quam cantu*†.

It may be here observed, that birds when near each other, and in sight, seldom *jerk* or sing. They either fight, or use short and wheedling calls; the *jerking*

* A bird, acquainted with the nets, is by the bird-catchers termed a *sharper*, which they endeavour to drive away, as they can have no sport whilst it continues near them.

† *Lib. x. c. 29.*

of these *call-birds*, therefore, face to face, is a most extraordinary instance of contention for superiority in song.

It may be also worthy of observation, that the female of no species of birds ever sings: with birds, it is the reverse of what occurs in human kind: among the feathered tribe, all the cares of life fall to the lot of the tender sex: theirs is the fatigue of incubation; and the principal share in nursing the helpless brood: to alleviate these fatigues, and to support her under them, nature hath given to the male the song, with all the little blandishments and soothing arts; these he fondly exerts (even after courtship) on some spray contiguous to the nest, during the time his mate is performing her parental duties.

To these we may add a few particulars that fell within our notice during our enquiries among the bird-catchers, such as, that they immediately kill the hens of every species of birds they take, being incapable of singing, as also being inferior in plumage; the *pippets* likewise are indiscriminately destroyed, as the cock does not sing well: they sell the dead birds for three-pence or four-pence a dozen.

These small birds are so good, that we are surprized the luxury of the age neglects so delicate an acquisition to the table. The modern *Italians* are fond of small birds, which they eat under the common name of *Beccoficos*: and the dear rate a *Roman tragedian* paid for one dish of singing birds * is well known.

* *Maximè tamen insignis est in hac memoria, Clodii Æsopi tragici histrionis patina sexcentis H. S. taxata; in quo posuit aves cantu*

Another particular we learned, in conversation with a *London* bird-catcher, was the vast price that is sometimes given for a single song bird, which had not learned to whistle tunes. The greatest sum we heard of, was five guineas for a *chaffinch*, that had a particular and uncommon note, under which it was intended to train others: and we also heard of five pounds ten shillings being given for a *call-bird linnet*.

A third singular circumstance, which confirms the observation of *Linnaeus*, is, that the male *chaffinches* fly by themselves, and in the *flight* precede the females; but this is not peculiar to the *chaffinches*: when the *titlarks* are caught in the beginning of the season, it frequently happens, that forty are taken and not one female among them: and probably the same would be observed with regard to other birds (as has been done with relation to the *wheat-ear*) if they were attended to.

An experienced and intelligent bird-catcher informed us, that such birds as breed twice a year, generally have in their first brood a majority of males, and in their second, of females, which may in part account for the above observation.

We must not omit mention of the *bulfinch*, though it does not properly come under the title of a singing bird, or a bird of *flight*, as it does not often move farther than from hedge to hedge; yet, as the bird sells well on account of its learning to whistle tunes,

cantu aliquo, aut humano sermone, vocales. Plin. lib. x. c. 51. The price of this expensive dish was about 6843 *l.* 10*s.* according to *Arbutnot's* tables. This seems to have been a wanton caprice, rather than a tribute to epicurism.

and sometimes flies over the field where the nets are laid: the bird catchers have often a *call bird* to ensnare it, though most of them can imitate the call with their mouths. It is remarkable with regard to this bird, that the female answers the purpose of a *call-bird* as well as the male, which is not experienced in any other bird taken by the *London* bird-catchers.

It may perhaps surprize, that under this article of *singing birds*, we have not mentioned the *nightingale*, which is not a bird of *flight*, in the sense the bird-catchers use this term; though it certainly is a bird of *passage*. The *nightingale*, like the *robin*, *wren*, and many other singing-birds, only moves from hedge to hedge, and does not take the periodical *flights* in *October* and *March*. It is indeed much doubted, whether, during those months, it is to be found in this island. The persons who take these birds, make use of small trap-nets, without call-birds, and are considered as inferior in dignity to our bird-catchers, who will not rank with them.

The *nightingale* being the first of singing birds, we shall here insert a few particulars relating to it, that were transmitted to us since the description of that bird was printed.

Its arrival is expected by the trappers in the neighborhood of *London*, the first week in *April*; at the beginning none but cocks are taken, but in a few days the hens make their appearance, generally by themselves, though sometimes a few males come along with them.

The latter are distinguished from the females not only by their superior size, but by a great swelling of

their vent, which commences on the first arrival of the hens.

They do not build till the middle of *May*, and generally chuse a quickset to make their nest in.

If the nightingale is kept in a cage, it begins to sing about the latter end of *November*, and continues singing more or less till *June*.

A young *Canary bird*, *linnet*, *skylark*, or *robin* (who have never heard any other bird) are said best to learn the note of a *nightingale*.

They are caught in a net-trap; the bottom of which is surrounded with an iron ring; the net itself is rather larger than a cabbage net.

When the trappers hear or see them, they strew some fresh mould under the place, and bait the trap with a meal worm from the baker's shop.

Ten or a dozen *nightingales* have been caught in a day, and sell immediately for a shilling a piece. The largest price for one that has been long kept in a cage and sings well, is a guinea.

Div. II. WATER FOWLS.

Section I. WITH CLOVEN FEET.

II. WITH FINNED FEET.

III. WITH WEBBED FEET.

SECTION I.

Genus I. HERONS.

I. The CRESTED HERON.

Heron cendré. *Belon av.* 182.

Alia ardea. *Gesner av.* 219.

Ardea cinerea major. *Aldr. av.*
iii. 157.

Common Heron, or Heronshaw.
Wil. orn. 277.

Ardea cinerea major seu pella.
Raii syn. av. 98.

Garza cinerizia grossa. *Zinan.*
113.

Le Heron hupé. *Briffon av. v.*
296. *tab.* 35.

Blauer Rager. *Kram.* 346.

Ardea major. *Lin. syst.* 236.

Hager. *Faun. Suec. sp.* 59.

The Heron. *Br. Zool.* 116. *tab.*

THIS elegant species is much scarcer with us than the following, and is rather superior to it in bulk. The bill is six inches long; very strong, and sharp pointed; the edges thin and rough: the color dusky above; yellow beneath: the nostrils long and narrow: the irides are of a deep yellow: the space round the eyes, and between them and the bill covered with a bare greenish skin. The forehead and crown of the head white: the hind part adorned with a beautiful pendent crest of black feathers, the longest above four iches long: the hind part of the neck, and

Descr.

and the coverts of the wings are grey: the back is clad only with down, and covered with the scapular feathers: the fore part of the neck is white, elegantly spotted with a double row of black: the feathers are long, narrow and unwebbed, falling loose over the breast; the scapulars formed in the same manner, are grey streaked with white. The ridge of the wing is white: the quill feathers and the bastard wing are black: on the sides, beneath the shoulders, is a bed of black that continues quite to the tail. The breast, belly and thighs are white; the last dashed with yellow: the tail consists of twelve feathers, and is ash-colored: the legs a dirty green: the claws short: the inner edge of the middle claw is finely serrated.

II. The COMMON HERON. Tab. 6.

Ardea Pella, five cinerea. *Gesner*
av. 211.

Ardea cinerea tertia. *Aldr.* av.
iii. 159.

The blue Heron. *Turner*.

Aldrovandus, his third kind of
ash-colored Heron. *Wil. orn.*
279.

Rall syn. av. 98.

Ardea cinerea. *Lin. syst.* 236.

Danis & Norw. Heyre v. Hegre.
Cimbris Skid-Heire, Skred-
heire. *Norvegis* etiam Reyger.
Brunnich 156.

Le Heron. *Briffon av.* v. 292.
tab. 34.

Br. Zool. 116.

THIS bird is remarkably light in proportion to its bulk, scarce weighing three pounds and a half: the length is three feet two inches; the breadth five feet four inches. The body is very small, and always lean; and the skin scarce thicker than what is called gold-beater's skin. It must be capable of bearing a long abstinence, as its food, which is fish and frogs,



Paillon sculp.

Maxell. fec.

frogs, cannot be readily got at all times. It commits great devastation in our ponds ; but being unprovided with webs to swim, nature has furnished it with very long legs to wade after its prey. It perches and builds in trees, and sometimes in high cliffs over the sea, commonly in company with many others, like rooks. It makes its nest of sticks, lines it with wool ; and lays four large eggs of a pale green color. It was formerly in this country a bird of game, heron-hawking being so favorite a diversion of our ancestors, that laws were enacted for the preservation of the species, and the person who destroyed their eggs was liable to a penalty of twenty-shillings, for each offence. Not to know the *Hawk* from the *Heronshaw* was an old proverb *, taken originally from this diversion ; but in course of time served to express great ignorance in any science. This bird was formerly much esteemed as a food ; and made a favorite dish at great tables. It is said to be very long lived ; by Mr. *Keyssler's* account it may exceed sixty years † : and by a recent instance of one that was taken in *Holland* by a hawk belonging to the stadtholder, its longevity is again confirmed, the bird having a silver plate fastened to one leg, with an inscription, importing it had been before struck by the elector of *Cologne's* hawks in 1735.

This differs from the preceding in these particulars: it is less ; the head is grey ; it wants the long crest ; having a much shorter pendent plume of dusky fea-

* Afterwards this proverb was absurdly corrupted to, he does not know a *hawk* from a *handsaw*.

† *Keyssler's travels*, i. 70.

thers: the feathers on the fore part of the neck though spotted, are very short: the scapulars are grey and webbed: the sides are grey, not marked with the bed of black as those of the former are; in other respects they agree.

Mr. Ray imagined this to be congenerous with the crested heron, but later discoveries prove them to be distinct kinds.

III. The BITTERN.

Le Butor. <i>Belon av.</i> 192.	444. tab. 37.
Brrind, Rordump. <i>Gesner av.</i>	Garza bionda, o di color d'oro.
^{215.}	<i>Zinan.</i> 112.
The Myredromble. <i>Turner.</i>	Rohrtrummel, Mofskuh. <i>Kram.</i>
Trombone, Terrabuso. <i>Aldr. av.</i>	348.
^{iii.} 164.	<i>Ardea stellaris. Lin. syst.</i> 239.
Bittour, Bittern, or Mire-drum.	<i>Rordrum. Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 164.
<i>Wil. orn.</i> 282.	<i>Danis Rordrum. Brunnich</i> 155.
<i>Raii syn. av.</i> 100.	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 117. tab. A. 1.
Botaurus, le Butor. <i>Briffon av.</i> v.	

THE bittern is a very retired bird, concealing itself in the midst of reeds and rushes in marshy places. It is with great difficulty provoked to flight, and when on wing has so dull and flagging a pace, as to acquire among the *Greeks* the title of *ονυθ** or the lazy. It has two kinds of notes; the one croaking, when it is disturbed: the other bellowing, which it commences in the spring and ends in autumn. Mr. *Willoughby* says, that in the latter season it soars into the air with a spiral ascent to a great height, making

* *Arist. hist. an.* 1056.

at the same time a singular noise. From the first observation, we believe this to be the species of heron that *Virgil* alludes to among the birds that forbode a tempest,

In sicco ludunt fulicæ, notasque paludes
Deferit, atque altam supra volat *Ardea* nubem*.

For the antients mention three kinds †; the *Leucon*, or white heron; the *Pellos*, supposed to be the common sort; and the *Asterias* or bittern; which seems to have acquired that name from this circumstance of its aspiring flight, as it were attempting, at certain seasons, the very stars; though at other times its motion was so dull, as to merit the epithet of *lazy*.

Some commentators have supposed this to have been the *Taurus* of *Pliny*; but as he has expressly declared that to be a small bird, remarkable for imitating the lowing of oxen, we must deny the explanation; and wait for the discovery of the *Roman* naturalist's animal from some of the literati of *Arles*, in which neighborhood *Pliny* says the bird was found ‡.

In size it is inferior to the heron: the bill is weaker, Descr. and only four inches long: the upper mandible a little arched; the edges of the lower jagged: the rictus or gape is so wide, that the eyes seem placed in the bill: the irides are next the pupil yellow; above the yellow incline to hazel: the ears are large and open. The crown of the head is black; the feathers on the hind part form a sort of short pendent crest: at each corner

* *Georg.* i. 363.

† *Arist. hist. an.* 1096. *Plin.* lib. x. c. 60.

‡ *Lib.* x. c. 42.

of the mouth is a black spot: the plumage of this bird is of very pale dull yellow, spotted, barred, or striped with black: the bastard wing, the greater coverts of the wings, and the quill-feathers are of a bright ferruginous color, regularly marked with black bars: the lower belly is of a whitish yellow: the tail is very short, and consists of only ten feathers. The feathers on the breast are very long, and hang loose: the legs are of a pale green. All the claws are long and slender: the inner side of the middle claw finely serrated to hold its prey the better; its hind claw is remarkably long, and being a supposed preservative for the teeth, is sometimes set in silver and used as a tooth pick. Besides this common species, Mr. *Edwards* mentions a small one of the size of a lapwing, shot near *Shrewsbury*. He adds no more than that the crown of the head was black: as this answers the description of a kind frequent in *Switzerland* and *Austria* *, we imagine it to be a strayed bird from those parts.

It builds its nest with the leaves of water plants on some dry clump among the reeds, and lays five or six eggs, of a cinereous green color. This bird and the heron are very apt to strike at the fowler's eyes, when only maimed. The food of the bittern is chiefly frogs; its flesh has much the flavour of the hare; and nothing of the fishiness of that of the heron.

* *Kramer Elench. anim. Austriae*, 348.



Mazell. fecit

IV. The GREAT WHITE HERON. *Tab. 7.*

Le Heron blanc. <i>Belon av.</i> 191.	<i>Briffon av.</i> v. 428.
Ardea alba. <i>Gesner av.</i> 213.	Großer weißer Rager. <i>Kram.</i>
<i>Turner.</i>	346.
<i>Wil. orn.</i> 279.	Ardea alba. <i>Lin. syst.</i> 239.
<i>Raii syn. av.</i> 99.	<i>Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 166.
Ardea candida, le Heron blanc.	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 117.

THIS bird has not fallen within our observation; therefore we must give Mr. *Willoughby's* account of it. The length to the end of the feet is fifty-three inches and a half, to that of the tail only forty; the breadth sixty inches; the weight forty ounces. Descr.

The bill is yellowish; the naked skin between that and the eyes green; the edges of the eye-lids, and the irides are of a pale yellow; the legs are black; the inner edge of the middle claw serrated: the whole plumage is of a snowy whiteness. This bird is very common in many parts of *Europe*; *Turner* says, that in his time this species bred (though rarely) in the same places with the common sort: but we believe it to be seldom found with us at present, any more than the small species of crested white heron mentioned by *Leland*, under the name of *Egritte*, in one of the bills of fare in the magnificent feast of our ancestors*.

* *Leland's collectanea*, vol. 6. L'Aigrette. *Briffon av.* v. 431.

Genus II. C U R L E W S.

I. The C U R L E W. *Tab. 8.*

Le Corlieu. *Belon av.* 204.
 Arquata, five numenius. *Gesner*
av. 221.
 Arcafe Torquato. *Aldr. av.* iii.
 169.
Wil. orn. 294.
Raii syn. av. 103.
 Le Courly. *Briffon av.* v. 311.

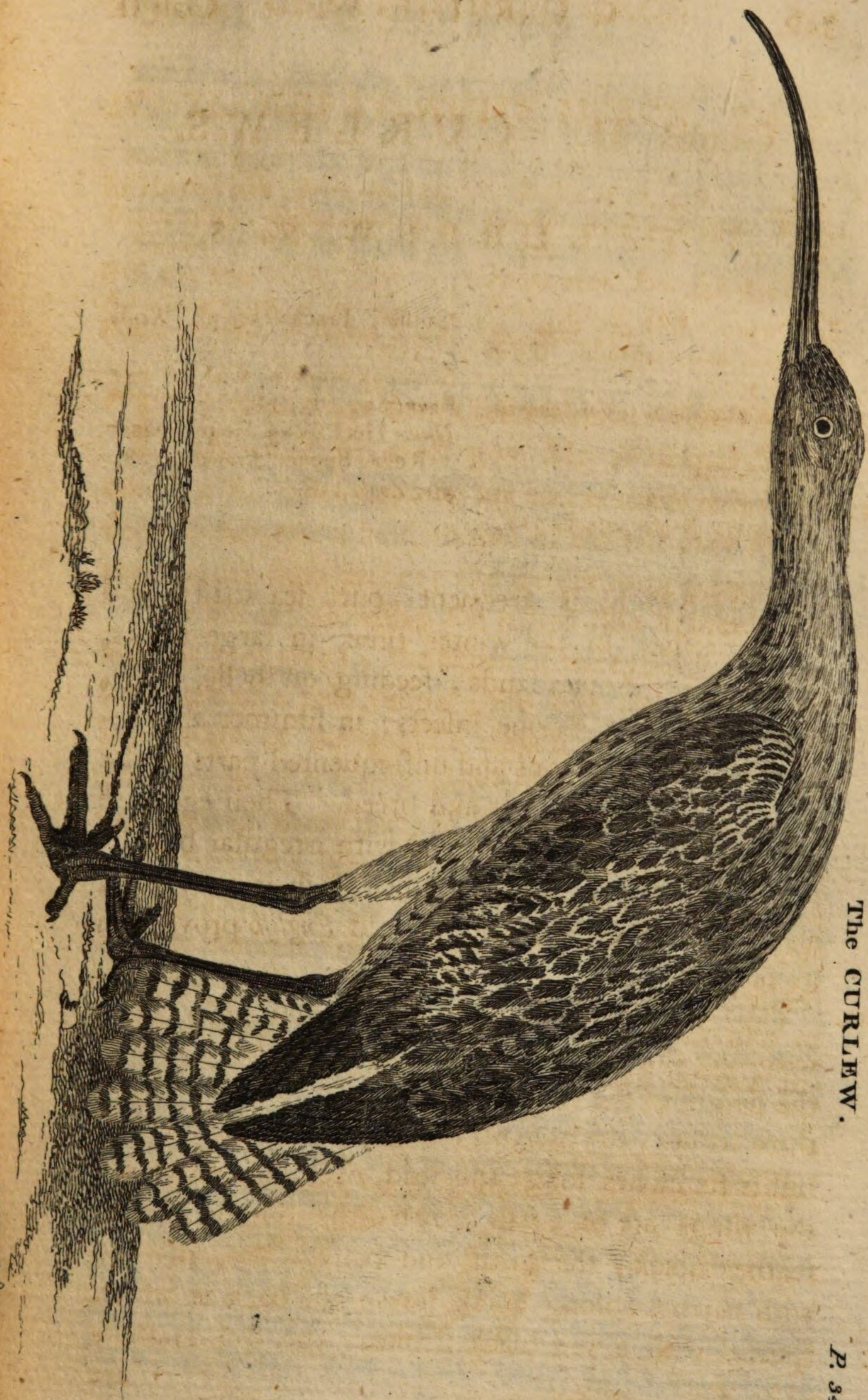
Goiffer, Brach-scknepf. *Kram.*
 350.
 Scolopax arquata. *Lin. syst.* 242.
Faun. Suec. sp. 168.
 Danis Heel spove. *Regn. Spaaer.*
Regn. Spove. Brunnich 158.
Br. Zool. 118.

THESE birds frequent our sea-coasts and marshes, in the winter time, in large flocks, walking on the open sands; feeding on shells, frogs, crabs, and other marine insects: in summer they retire to the mountanous and unfrequented parts of the country, where they pair and breed. Their eggs are of a pale olive color, marked with irregular but distinct spots of pale brown. Their flesh is very rank and fishy, notwithstanding an old *English* proverb in its favour.

Descr. Curlews differ much in weight and size; some weighing thirty-seven ounces, others not twenty-two: the length of the largest to the tip of the tail twenty-three inches; the breadth three feet three inches; the bill is six inches long: the head, neck, and coverts of the wings are of a pale brown; the middle of each feather black; the breast and belly white, marked with narrow oblong black lines: the back is white, spotted with a few black strokes: the quill-feathers
 are

The CURLLEW.

P. 346.



are black, but the inner webs spotted with white: the tail white, tinged with red and beautifully barred with black; the legs are long, strong, and of a bluish grey color: the bottoms of the toes flat and broad, to enable it to walk on the soft mud, in search of food.

II. The WHIMBREL:

Phæopus altera, vel arquata minor. Gesner av. 499.

Tarangolo, Girardello. Aldr. av. iii. 180.

Wil. orn. 294.

Raii syn. av. 103.

Edw. av. 307.

Scolopax Phæopus. Lin. syst. 243.

Windspole, Spof. Faun. Suec. sp. 169.

Kleiner Goiffer. Kram. 350.

Le petit Courly, ou le Courlieu.

Numenius minor. Brisson av. v. 317. tab. 27.

Danis Mellem-Spove. Norveg.

Smaae Spue. Br. 159.

Br. Zool. 119.

THE whimbrel is much less frequent on our shores than the curlew; but its haunts, food, and general appearance are much the same: the specific difference is the size; this never exceeding the weight of twelve ounces. The bill is two inches three-quarters long; dusky above, red below: the feathers on the head and neck are brown tinged with red, marked in the middle with an oblong black spot: the cheeks of a paler color: the upper part of the back, the coverts of the wings, the scapulars and the farthest quill-feathers are of the same color with the neck, but the black spots spread out transversely on each web: the quill-feathers dusky; their shafts white; and their exterior webs marked with large semicircular white spots. The breast, belly, and lower part of

Deser

the back are white: the coverts of the tail, and the tail itself, are of a very pale whitish brown, crossed with black bars. The legs and feet are of a dull green, and formed like those of the curlew.

Genus III. WOODCOCKS.

I. The WOODCOCK.

La Beccasse. *Belon av.* 272.

Rusticola, seu Perdix rustica major (Großer schnepf.) *Gesner av.* 501.

Aldr. av. iii. 182.

Wil. orn. 289.

Raii syn. av. 104.

La Beccasse. *Briffon av.* v. 292.

Beccaccia, Acceggia. *Zinan.* 101.

Wald schnepf. *Kram.* 251.

Scolopax rusticola. *Lin. syst.* 243.

Morkulla. *Faun. Suec. sp.* 170.

Norvegis Blom-Rokke, Rutte, quibusdam Krog-quist. *Danis*

Holt Sneppe. *Brunnich* 164.

Br. Zool. 119.

THESE birds during summer are inhabitants of the *Alps**, of *Norway*, *Sweden*†, and the northern parts of *Europe*: they all retire from those countries the beginning of winter, as soon as the frosts commence; which force them into milder climates, where the ground is open, and adapted to their manner of feeding. They live on worms, which they search for with their long bills in soft ground and moist woods. Woodcocks generally arrive here in flocks, taking advantage of the night, or a mist: they soon separate; but before they return to their native

* *Wil. orn.* 290.

† *M. de Geer's* and *Dr. Wallerius's* letters to myself.

haunts,

haunts, pair. They feed and fly by night; beginning their flight in the evening, and return the same way, or through the same glades to their day retreat. They leave *England* the latter end of *February*, or beginning of *March*; not but they have been known to continue here. In *Case-wood*, about two miles from *Tunbridge*, a few breed almost annually: the young having been shot there the beginning of *August*, and were as healthy and vigorous as they are with us in the winter, but not so well tasted: a female with egg was shot in that neighborhood in *April*; the egg was the size of that of a pigeon.

In the same manner we know they quit *France*, *Germany* and *Italy*; making the northern and cold situations their general summer rendezvous. They visit *Burgundy* the latter end of *October*, but continue there only four or five weeks; it being a dry country they are forced away for want of sustenance by the first frosts. In the winter they are found in vast plenty as far south as *Smyrna* and *Aleppo* *, and in the same season in *Barbary* †, where the *Africans* call them, the *afs* of the partridge: and we have been told, that some have appeared as far south as *Ægypt*, which are the remotest migrations we can trace them to on that side the eastern world; on the other side, they are found very common in *Japan* ‡. The birds that resort into the countries of the *Levant*, probably come from the deserts of *Siberia* or *Tartary* §, or the

* *Russel's hist. Aleppo.* 64.

† *Shaw's travels,* 253.

‡ *Kämpfer's hist. Japan,* i. 129.

§ *Bell's travels,* i. 198.

cold mountains of *Armenia*. It is said that woodcocks are unknown in *North America*. This is certain, that the bird which *Lawson* distinguishes by that name, in his account of *Carolina* *, is the red-breasted godwit : and Mr. *Banks* has assured us, that they are never met with in *Newfoundland*.

Descr. The weight of the woodcock is usually about twelve ounces : the length near fourteen inches : the breadth twenty-six : the bill is three inches long, dusky towards the end, reddish at the base : the eye large, and placed near the top of the head, as Mr. *Willoughby* observes, that they may not be injured when the bird thrusts its bill into the ground : from the bill to the eyes is a black line : the forehead is of a reddish ash-color : the crown of the head, the hind part of the neck, the back, the coverts of the wings, and the scapulars, are irregularly barred with a ferruginous red, black and grey ; but on the head the black predominates : the quill-feathers are dusky, indented with red marks : the chin is of a pale yellow : the whole underside of the body is of a dirty white, marked with numerous transverse lines of a dusky color. The tail consists of twelve feathers, dusky on the one web, and marked with red on the other : the tips above are ash-colored, below white ; which, when shooting on the ground was in vogue, was the sign the fowler discovered the birds by. The legs and toes are livid ; the latter divided to their very origin ; as are those of the two species of snipes found in *England*.

* P. 139.

II. The G O D W I T.

Godwit, Yarwhelp, or Yarwip. *Limosa grisea major.*

Wil. orn. 290.

Raii syn. av. 105.

Scolopax ægocephala. Lin. syst.

246.

La grande Barge grise. Brisson av.

v. 272. *tab.* 24. *fig.* 2.

Br. Zool. 120. *tab.*

THIS species weighs twelve ounces and a half; Descr. the length is sixteen inches; the breadth twenty-seven; the bill is four inches long, black at the end, the rest a pale purple: from the bill to the eye is a broad white stroke: the feathers of the head, neck, and back, are of a light reddish brown, marked in the middle with a dusky spot: the belly and vent feathers white: the tail regularly barred with black and white: the six first quill-feathers are black; their interior edges of a reddish brown: the legs in some are dusky, in others of a greyish blue; which perhaps may be owing to different ages: the exterior toe is connected as far as the first joint of the middle toe, with a strong serrated membrane. The male is distinguished from the female by some black lines on the breast and throat; which in the female are wanting.

These birds are taken in the fens, in the same season, and in the same manner with the ruffs and reeves, and when fattened are esteemed a great delicacy, and sell for five shillings a piece: they appear in small flocks on our coast in *September*, and continue with us the whole winter; they walk on the open sands like the curlew; and feed on insects.

M. Briffon has figured this bird very accurately, but has given it the synonym of our *greenshanks*: Turner seems to suspect this bird to have been the *attagen* or *attagas* of the ancients, but on a very slight foundation. *Aristophanes* happens to name it in an address to the birds that inhabit the fens; therefore some commentators conclude it to be a water-fowl; though in a line or two after he speaks of those that frequent the beautiful meadows of *Marathon*. He then describes the bird in very striking terms, under the title of the *attagas*, *the bird with painted wings*; and in another place he styles it the *spotted attagas* *. This alone would be insufficient to prove what species the poet intended; we must therefore have recourse to *Athenæus*, who is particular in his description of the *attagas*, and evinces it to be of the partridge tribe.

He says it is less than that bird; that the back is spotted with different colors, some of a pot color, but more red; that by reason of the shortness of the wings and heaviness of the body, it is taken easily by the fowlers. That it rolls in the dust, brings many young, and feeds on seeds.

We are sorry to own our small acquaintance with the zoology of *Attica*, considering the various opportunities our countrymen have had of informing themselves of it. We therefore cannot pronounce, that the *attagas* still exists on the plains of *Marathon*;

* "ὄρνις τε πλεροποικίλος
ατταγῶς.

Ατταγας ὅτι παρ' ἡμῶν ποικίλος κεκλήσεται. Av. 249. 762.

but we discover it in *Samos*, an island of *Ionia*, a country celebrated by the antients for producing the finest kinds :

Inter saporis fertur alitum primus
lonicarum gustus attagenarum,

Is the opinion of *Martial* *, and *Horace* †, and *Pliny* ‡, both speak of it with applause. *Tournefort* § has given us the figure of the bird itself, which he found in the *marshes* of *Samos*, whose painted and spotted plumage exactly answers the descriptions of *Aristophanes* and *Athenæus*. It is of the partridge genus, and known to the *Italians* by the name of *Francolino*. Those who wish to see it in its proper colors, and to be satisfied how well they agree with the descriptions of the antients, need only consult the 246th plate of the works of our ingenious friend Mr. *Edwards*.

III. The RED GODWIT.

Scolopax Lapponica. Lin. syst. Faun. Suec. sp. 174.
246. *Br. Zool. add. plates.*

THE red godwit is superior in size to the com- Defect.
mon kind : the bill is three inches three-quarters long; not quite strait, but a little reflected upwards; the lower half black, the upper yellow : the head, neck, breast, sides, scapulars, and upper part of the

* *Epig. lib. xiii. Ep. 61.*

† *Epod. ii.*

‡ *Lib. x. c. 48.*

§ *Voy. vol. i. 311. 4to. ed.*

back, are of a bright ferruginous color: the head marked with oblong dusky lines: the neck is plain: the breast, sides, scapulars, and back varied with transverse black bars, and the edges of the feathers with a pale cinereous brown: the middle of the belly is white, marked sparingly with similar spots: the lesser coverts of the wings are of a light brown: the greater tip with white: the shafts and lower interior webs of the greater quill-feathers are white: the exterior webs and upper part of the interior black: the upper half of the secondary feathers are of the same color; the lower half white: the coverts, and the lower part of the feathers of the tail are white; the upper part black; the white gradually lessening from the outmost feathers on each side: the legs are black, and four inches long: and the thighs above the knees are naked for the space of an inch and three-quarters.

These birds vary in their colors, some that we have seen being very slightly marked with red, or only marbled with it on the breast: but the reflected form of the bill is ever sufficient to determine the species. This is not a very common species in *England*; we have known it to have been shot near *Hull*; and have once met with it in a poulterer's shop in *London*. Mr. *Edwards* has figured a bird from *Hudson's Bay*, that seems related to this; but the difference in the colors of the tail, forbids our placing it among the synonyms. And *Linnaeus* omitting a description of that part, in his *Fauna Suecica* obliges us to question whether it be the same with the above.

IV. The LESSER GODWIT.

La Barge. *Belon av.* 205.

The second sort of Godwit, the
Totanus of *Aldrovand*; called
at *Venice*, *Vetola*. *Wil. orn.*
293.

Fedoa nostra secunda, the stone
Plover. *Raii syn. av.* 105.

Limosa, la Barge. *Briffon av.* v.
262.

Br. Zool. 120.

MR. *Ray* (for we are not acquainted with this species) describes it thus. Its weight is nine ounces; the length to the tail seventeen inches; to the toes twenty-one; its breadth twenty-eight: the bill like that of the former: the chin white, tinged with red: the neck ash-colored; the head of a deep ash-color, whitish about the eye; the back of a uniform brownness, not spotted like that of the preceding: the rump encompassed with a white ring: the two middle feathers of the tail black: the outmost, especially on the outside web, white almost to the tips; in the rest the white part grew less and less to the middlemost. Descr.

Besides these, Mr. *Willoughby* mentions a third species, called in *Cornwal* the *Stone Curlew*; but describes it no farther than saying it has a shorter and slenderer bill than the preceding.

V. The GREEN SHANK.

Limosa, et glottis. <i>Gesner av.</i>	Scolopax glottis. <i>Lin. syst.</i> 245.
519, 520.	Glut. <i>Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 171.
Piviero. <i>Aldr. av.</i> iii. 207.	Pivier Maggiore. <i>Zinan.</i> 102.
Greater Plover of <i>Aldrovand.</i>	<i>Norvegis</i> Høest-Fugl. 167. <i>Brun-</i>
<i>Wil orn.</i> 298.	<i>nich.</i>
<i>Raii syn. av.</i> 106.	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 121.

THESE birds are not so common as the former : appearing on our coasts and wet grounds in the winter time in small flocks. The length to the end of the tail is fourteen inches, to that of the toes twenty ; its breadth twenty-five. The bill is two inches and a half long : the upper mandible black, strait and very slender ; the lower reflects a little upwards : the head and upper part of the neck are ash-colored, marked with small dusky lines pointing down : over each eye passes a white line : the coverts of the wings, the scapulars, and upper part of the back are of a brownish ash-color : the quill-feathers dusky, but the inner webs speckled with white : the breast, belly, thighs, and lower part of the back are white : the tail white, marked with undulated dusky bars : the inner coverts of the wings finely crossed with double and treble rows of a dusky color.

It is a bird of an elegant shape, and small weight in proportion to its dimensions, weighing only six ounces.

The legs are very long and slender, bare above two inches higher than the knees. The exterior toe is united to the middle toe, as far as the second joint, by

by a strong membrane which borders their sides to the very end.

These birds are the *Chevaliers aux pieds verts* of the French; as the following are the *Chevaliers aux pieds rouges*.

VI. The SPOTTED REDSHANK.

Le chevalier rouge. *Belon. av.*
207.
Aldr. av. iii. 171.

The other Totano. *Wilorn. 299.*
Le Chevalier rouge. *Briffon av.*
v. 192.

THIS species we found in the collection of *Taylor White, Esq;* in size it is equal to the *Descr,* preceding: the head is of a pale ash-color, marked with oblong streaks of black: the back dusky, varied with triangular spots of white: the coverts of the wings ash-colored, spotted in the same manner: the quill feathers dusky; breast, belly, and thighs white, the first thinly spotted with black: the middle feathers of the tail are ash-colored; the side feathers are whitish, barred with black: the legs very long, and of a bright red.

VII. The

VII. The S N I P E.

- La Becassine ou Becasseau. *Belon* Moors schnepf. *Kram.* 352.
av. 215. Scolopax gallinago. *Lin. syst.*
 Gallinago, seu rusticola minor. 244.
Gesner av. 503. Horfgjok. *Faun. Suec. sp.* 173.
Aldr. av. iii. 184. Capella cœlestis. *Klein av.* 100.
 The Snipe, or Snite. *Wil. orn.* *Islandis* Myr Snippe. *Norvegis*
 290. Troid Ruke. *Cimbris quibusd.*
Raii syn. av. 105. Hoffegioeg. *Danis* Dobbelt
 La Beccassine. *Briffon av.* v. Sneppe, Steen Sneppe. *Br.*
 298. *tab.* 26. *fig.* 1. 160.
 Pizzarda, Pizzardella. *Zinan.* *Br. Zool.* 121.
 101.

IN the winter time snipes are very frequent in all our marshy and wet grounds, where they lie concealed in the rushes, &c. In the summer they disperse to different parts, and are found in the midst of our highest mountains, as well as our low moors: their nest is made of dried grass; they lay four eggs of a dirty olive color, marked with dusky spots; their young are so often found in *England*, that we doubt whether they ever entirely leave this island. When they are disturbed much, particularly in the breeding season, they soar to a vast height, making a singular bleating noise; and when they descend, dart down with vast rapidity: it is also amusing to observe the cock (while his mate sits on her eggs) poise himself on his wings, making sometimes a whistling and sometimes a drumming noise. Their food is the same with that of the woodcock; their flight very irregular and swift, and attended with a shrill scream.

Descr. This species weighs four ounces; the length, to the end

end of the tail, is near twelve inches: the breadth about fourteen: the bill is three inches long, of a dusky color: the head is divided lengthways with four black lines, and three of red, one of the last passing over the middle of the head, and one above each eye: between the bill and the eyes is a dusky line: the chin is white: the neck is varied with brown and red: the scapulars are beautifully striped lengthways with black and yellow: the quill-feathers are dusky, but the edge of the first is white, as are the tips of the secondary feathers: the quill-feathers next the back are barred with black and pale red: the breast and belly are white: the coverts of the tail are long, and almost conceal it; they are red barred with black: the tail is dusky, marked with rust-color and tipped with white. The legs of a pale green.

VIII. The JACKSNIFE.

Gid, Jacksnipe, and Judcock.

Wil. orn. 291.

Raii syn. av. 105.

La petite Beccassine. *Briffon av.*

v. 303. *tab.* 26. *fig.* 2.

Pizzardina. *Zinan.* 101.

Scolopax gallinula. Lin. syst.

244.

Danis Roer-Sneppe. Brunnich 163.

Br. Zool. 121.

THE haunts and food of this species are the same with those of the former. It is much less frequent among us, and very difficult to be found, lying so close as to hazard being trod on, before it will rise: the flight is never distant, and its motion is more sluggish than that of the larger kind.

Descr. Its weight is less than two ounces, inferior by half to that of the snipe; for which reason the *French* call them *deux pour un*, we the *half snipe*. The dimensions bear not the same proportion; the length of the snipe being thirteen inches; this ten. The crown of the head is black, tinged with rust color; over each eye is a yellow stroke; the neck varied with white, brown and pale red. The scapular feathers narrow, brown, bordered with yellow. The rump a glossy bluish purple: the belly white; the greater quill-feathers dusky: the tail feathers brown, edged with tawny: the legs of an ash-colored green.

Genus IV. SANDPIPERS*.

I. The L A P W I N G.

Le Vanneau, Dixhuit, Papechieu.	<i>av. v. 94. tab. 8. fig. 1.</i>
<i>Belon av. 209.</i>	<i>Raii syn. av. 110.</i>
Zweiel. <i>Gesner av. 765.</i>	<i>Kiwik. Kram. 353.</i>
Pavonzino. <i>Aldr. av. iii. 202.</i>	<i>Tringa vanellus. Lin. syst. 248.</i>
Pavoncella. <i>Olin. 21.</i>	<i>Wipa, Kowipa, Blæcka. Faun.</i>
Lapwing, bastard Plover, or	<i>Suec. sp. 176.</i>
Pewit. <i>Wil. orn. 307.</i>	<i>Danis Vibe, Kivit. Brunnich 170.</i>
Vanellus, le Vanneau. <i>Briffon</i>	<i>Br. Zool. 122. tab.</i>

THIS elegant species inhabites most of the heaths and marshy grounds of this island. It lays four eggs, making a slight nest with a few bents. The eggs have an olive cast, and are spotted with

* This genus, the *Tringæ* of *Linnaeus*, wanting an *English* name, we have given it that of the *Sandpipers*; most of the species being conversant about shores; and their note whistling or piping.
black.

black. It is worthy of notice, that among water fowl, congenerous birds lay the same number of eggs; for example, all of this tribe, also of the plovers, lay four a-piece; the puffin genus only one; and the duck tribe, in general, are numerous layers, producing from eight to twenty.

The young as soon as hatched, run like chickens; the parents shew remarkable sollicitude for them, flying with great anxiety and clamour near them, striking at either men or dogs that approach, and often flutter along the ground like a wounded bird, to a considerable distance from their nest, to elude their pursuers; and to aid the deceit, become more clamorous when most remote from it: the eggs are held in great esteem for their delicacy; and are sold by the *London* poulterers for three shillings the dozen. In winter, lapwings join in vast flocks; but at that season are very wild: their flesh is very good, their food being insects and worms.

Their weight is about eight ounces: the length Descri. thirteen inches and a half: the breadth two feet and a half. The bill is black, and little more than an inch long: the crown of the head of a shining blackness: the crest of the same color, consisting of about twenty slender unwebbed feathers of unequal lengths, the longest are four inches: the cheeks and sides of the neck are white; but beneath each eye is a black line: the throat and fore part of the neck are black: the plumage on the hind part mixed with white, ash-color and red: the back and scapulars are of a most elegant glossy green; and the latter finely varied with purple: the lesser covert feathers of the wings are of

a resplendent black blue and green : the greater quill-feathers black, but the ends of the four first are marked with a white spot : the upper half of the lesser quill-feathers are black, the lower white : those next the body of the same colors with the scapulars : the breast and belly are white : the vent-feathers and the coverts of the tail orange color : the tail consists of twelve feathers ; the outmost on each side is white, marked on the upper end of the inner web with a dusky spot ; the upper half of all the others are black, tipped with a dirty white ; their lower half of a pure white : the legs are red : the irides hazel.

The female is rather less than the male.

Merret, in his *Pinax*, p. 182. says, that there is in *Cornwal* a bird related to this ; but less than a thrush, having blue feathers, and a long crest.

II. The GREY PLOVER.

Le pluvier gris. *Belon av.* 262.

Pivier montano. *Aldr. av.* iii.

207.

Wil. orn. 309.

Raii syn. av. 111.

Tringa squatarola. Lin. syst. 252.

Faun. Suec. sp. 186.

Vannellus griseus, le Vanneau

gris. *Briffon av.* v. 100. tab.

9. fig. 1.

Piviero montano. *Zinan.* 102.

Bornholmis Floyte-Tyten, Dolken.

Brunnich 176.

Br. Zool. 122.

Descr. IT weighs seven ounces : the length to the tip of the tail is twelve inches : the breadth twenty-four : the bill black, about an inch long ; the head, back, and coverts of the wings black, edged with greenish ash-color, and some white : the cheeks and throat white, marked with oblong dusky spots : the belly and

and thighs white: the exterior webs of the quill-feathers black: the lower part of the interior webs of the four first white: the rump white: the tail marked with transverse bars of black and white: the legs of a dirty green: the back toe very small.

These appear in small flocks in the winter time, but are not very common: their flesh is very delicate.

III. The R U F F.

Avis pugnax. *Aldr. av.* iii. 167.
Wil. orn. 302.

Raii syn. av. 107.

Krofsler. Kram. 352.

Tringa pugnax. *Lin. syst.* 247.

Brushane. Faun. Suec. sp. 175.

Le Combattant, ou Paon de mer.

Briffon av. v. 240. *tab.* 22.

Danis Bruushane. Brunnich
168.

Br. Zool. 123.

THE males, or *Ruffs*, assume such variety of colors in several parts of their plumage, that it is scarce possible to see two alike; but the great length of the feathers on the neck, that gives name to them, at once distinguishes these from all other birds. On the back of their necks is a singular tuft of feathers spreading wide on both sides. These, and the former, in some are black; in others white, yellow, or ferruginous; but this tuft and the ruffs always differ in colors in the same bird. The feathers that bear an uniformity of coloring through each individual of this sex, are the coverts of the wings, which are brown inclining to ash-color: the feathers on the breast, which are black or dusky: the four exterior

Descr.

feathers of the tail, which are of a cinereous brown ; and the four middle, which are barred with black and brown. The legs in all, are yellow ; the young birds are often mistaken for a new species of *Tringa*, but may be easily known by the above notes. In moulting, they lose for a while the character of the long neck-feathers ; but a set of small pimples, which at that season break out above the bill, forms another. The *Reeves*, or females, are said never to change their colors ; which are brown, spotted in some parts with white, or ash-color : and the legs of those we received out of the *Fens* were dusky. They are less than the males, which weigh between five and six ounces.

These birds are found in *Lincolnshire*, the *Isle of Ely*, and in the east riding of *Yorkshire*, where they are taken in nets, and fattened for the table, with bread and milk, hempseed, and sometimes with boiled wheat ; but if expedition is required, sugar is added, which will make them in a fortnight's time a lump of fat : they then sell for two shillings or half a crown a piece. Judgement is required in taking the proper time for killing them, when they are at the highest pitch of fatness, for if that is neglected, the birds are apt to fall away. The method of killing them is by cutting off their head with a pair of scissars : the quantity of blood that issues is very great, considering the size of the bird. They are dressed like the woodcock, with their intestines ; and, when killed at the critical time, are reckoned the most delicious of all morsels. The *Ruffs* are so addicted to fighting, that the feeders
are

are obliged to shut them in a dark room, for they will attack one another the moment light is admitted, and never desist till they are all demolished. The fowlers avoid taking the *Reeves*, not only because they are smaller than the males, but they chuse to leave them to breed. They lay four eggs in a tuft of grass, beginning to lay the first week in *May*, and sit about a month; the eggs are whitish, thinly marked with deep ferruginous spots. *Ruffs* and *Reeves* are birds of passage, coming into the *Fens* the latter end of *April*, and disappearing about *Michaelmas*. These birds are taken by the fen fowlers, in nets that are about forty yards long, and seven or eight feet high. These are supported by sticks at an angle of near forty-five degrees, and placed either on dry ground, or in very shallow water, not remote from the reeds, among which the fowler conceals himself, till the birds, enticed by a stale or stuffed bird, come under the nets; he then, by pulling a string, lets them fall. Godwits and knots are taken in the same manner, only the *stale* is made of a bird of the same species.

IV. The K N O T.

Wil. orn. 302.*Raii syn. av.* 108.*Edw. av.* 276.*Le Canut. Brisson av.* v. 258.*Tringa canutus. Lin. syst.* 251.*Faun. Suec. sp.* 183.*Islandis* Sidlingar-Kall. *Norvegis*

Fiære-Pist. Fiær-Kurv, Fiær-

Muus. *Bornholmis* Rytteren.*Brunnich* *Tringa* *maritima.*

182.

Br. Zool. 123.

THE specimens that we had opportunity of examining, differ a little in colors, both from Mr. *Willoughby's* description, and from Mr. *Edwards's* figure: the forehead, chin, and lower part of the neck in ours were brown, inclining to ash-color: the back and scapulars deep brown, edged with ash-color: the coverts of the wings with white, the edges of the lower order deeply so, forming a white bar: the breast, sides, and belly white; the two first streaked with brown: the coverts of the tail marked with white and dusky spots alternately: the tail ash-colored, the outmost feather on each side white: the legs were of a bluish grey; and the toes, as a special mark, divided to the very bottom: the weight four ounces and a half.

These birds frequent our coasts in the winter; in the summer they are taken with the ruffs in the eastern parts of the *Ely Fens*; and when fattened, are preferred by some to the Ruffs themselves. *Camden** says they derive their name from king *Canute*, *Knute*, or *Knout*, as he is sometimes called; probably because

* *Camden Brit.* 971.

they

Class II. ASH-COLORED SANDPIPER. 367

they were a favorite dish with that monarch. We know that he kept the feast of the purification of the *Virgin Mary* with great pomp and magnificence at *Ely*, and this being one of the ten birds, it is not unlikely but he met with it there *. *Shakespear* in his *Othello*, speaking of *Roderigo* (if Mr. *Theobald's* reading is just) makes the *Knot* an emblem of a dupe.

“ I have rubb'd this young *Knot* almost to the sense;

“ And he grows angry. *Othello.*

V. The ASH-COLORED SANDPIPER.

Tringa cinerea. Brunnich ornith. Br. Zool. 124.

53.

THIS species weighs five ounces: the length is Descr.
ten inches: the breadth nineteen: the head is
of a brownish ash-color, spotted with black: the
whole neck ash-color, marked with dusky oblong
streaks: the back and coverts of the wings elegantly
varied with concentric semicircles of ash-color, black
and white: the coverts of the tail barred with black
and white: the tail ash-colored, edged with white:
the breast and belly of a pure white: the legs of a
greenish black: the toes bordered with a narrow
membrane, finely scolloped.

These birds appear on the shores of *Flintshire*, in
the winter time, in large flocks.

* *Dugdale on embanking, 185.*

VI. The REDSHANK.

- Gallinula erythropus. Gesner av.* 504.
Totanus. Aldr. av. iii. 171.
 Redshank, or Pool-snipe. *Wil. orn.* 299.
Paii syn. av. 107.
Totanus, le Chevalier. Brisson av. v. 188. *tab.* 17. *fig.* 1.
- Scolopax Calidris. Lin. syst.* 245.
Sc. Totanus. Faun. Suec. sp. 167.
Rothfussler. Kram. 353.
Hœmantopus, magnitudine inter Vanellum et Gallinaginem minorem media. Ray's itin. 247.
Br. Zool. 124.

THIS species is found on most of our shores: in the winter time it conceals itself in the gutters; and is generally found single, or at most in pair.

Descr. It weighs five ounces and a half: the length is twelve inches: the breadth twenty-one: the bill near two inches long, red at the base, black towards the point. The head, hind part of the neck, and scapulars, are of a dusky ash-color, obscurely spotted with black: the back is white, sprinkled with black spots: the tail elegantly barred with black and white: the cheeks, underside of the neck, and upper part of the breast are white, streaked downward with dusky lines: the belly white: the exterior webs of the quill-feathers are dusky: the legs long, and of a fine bright orange color. It breeds, as Mr. Ray observes, in the marshes; and flies round its nest when disturbed, making a noise like a *lapwing*. It lays four eggs, whitish tinged with olive, marked with irregular spots of black chiefly on the thicker end.

VII. The SPOTTED SANDPIPER.

Spotted Tringa. *Edw. av.* 277. Tringa macularia. *Lin. syst.*
 Turdus aquaticus, la Grive 249.
 d'Eau. *Briffon av.* v. 255. *Br. Zool.* 124.

THIS bird is common to *Europe* and *America*; according to Mr. *Edwards's* figure, it is less than the preceding.

The bill is of the same colors with that of the *Descr.* red-shank: the head, upper part of the neck, the back and coverts of the wings, are brown inclining to olive, and marked with triangular black spots: above each eye is a white line: the greater quill-feathers are wholly black, the lesser tipped with white: the middle feathers of the tail are brown: the side feathers white, marked with dusky lines: the whole under side, from neck to tail, is white marked with dusky spots: the female has none of these spots, except on the throat: the legs of a dusky flesh color. Mr. *Edwards* imagines these to be birds of passage; the bird he took his description from was shot in *Essex*.

VIII. The BLACK SPOTTED SANDPIPER.

MR. *Bolton* favored us with a description of this species shot in *Lincolnshire*.

It was the size of a thrush: the beak short, blunt at the point and dusky: the nostrils black: the irides

Descr.

irides yellow : the head small and flatted at top : the color white, most elegantly spotted with grey : the neck, shoulders and back mottled in the same manner, but darker, being tinged with brown ; in some lights these parts appeared of a perfect black and glossy : the wings were long : the quill-feathers black, crossed near their base with a white line : the throat, breast and belly white, with faint brown and black spots of a longish form, irregularly dispersed ; but on the belly become larger and more round ; the tail short, entirely white, except the two middle feathers, which are black : the legs long and slender, and of a reddish brown color.

IX. The TURNSTONE.

Turnstone, or Sea Dottrel. <i>Wil.</i>	La Coulon-chaud,	Arenaria,
<i>orn.</i> 311.	<i>Briffon av.</i> v. 132.	
<i>Cat. Carol.</i> i. 72.	Tringa Morinellus. <i>Lin. syst.</i>	
Morinellus Marinus. <i>Raii syn.</i>	249.	
<i>av.</i> 112.	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 125.	

Deser.

THIS species is about the size of a thrush : the bill is an inch in length, a little prominent on the top ; is very strong ; black at the tip, and at the base whitish : the forehead and throat are ash-colored : the head, whole neck and coverts of the wings are of a deep brown, edged with a pale reddish brown : the scapular feathers are of the same color, very long, and cover the back : that and the rump are white ; the last marked with a large triangular black spot :

the tail consists of twelve feathers, their lower half is white, the upper black, and the tips white: the quill-feathers are dusky, but from the third or fourth the bottoms are white, which continually increases, till from about the nineteenth the feathers are entirely of that color: the legs are short and of an orange color.

These birds take their name from their method of searching for food, by turning up small stones with their strong bills to get at the insects that lurk under them. The bird we took our description from was shot in *Shropshire*. Mr. Ray observed them flying three or four in company on the coasts of *Cornwall* and *Merionethshire*: and Sir Thomas Brown of *Norwich* discovered them on the coast of *Norfolk*; communicating the picture of one to Mr. Ray, with the name of *Morinellus marinus*, or sea dottrel. *Linnaeus* supposes the *Tringa interpres* to be this bird, but we believe his species is not to be found on our coasts.

X. The GREEN SANDPIPER.

Cinclus. *Belon av.* 216.*Faun. Suec. sp.* 180.Gallinæ aquaticæ secunda species
de nov. adject. *Gesner av.*
511.Le Beccasseau ou Cul-blanc,
Tringa. Brisson av. v. 177.
tab. 16. fig. 1.Giarolo, Gearoncello. *Aldr. av.*
iii. 185.*Danis* Horle - Gioeg. *Islandis*
Hroffagaukr. *Norvegis* Skodde
Foll, Skodde-Fugl. Jord-
geed. Makkre - Gouk, Rœs
Jouke. *Brunnich* 183.The *Tringa* of *Aldrovand.* *Wil.*
orn. 300.*Raii syn. av.* 108.*Tringa ochropus.* *Lin. syst.* 251. *Br. Zool.* 125.

Deser.

THIS beautiful species is not very common in these kingdoms. The head and hind part of the neck are of a brownish ash-color, streaked with white; the under part mottled with brown and white: the back, scapulars, and covert of the wings are of a dusky green, glossy and resplendent as silk, and elegantly marked with small white spots: the lesser quill-feathers of the same colors: the under sides of the wings are black, marked with numerous white lines, pointing obliquely from the edges of the feather to the shaft, representing the letter V. the rump is white; the tail of the same color: the first feather plain, the second marked near the end with one black spot, the third and fourth with two, the fifth with three, and the sixth with four.

Except in pairing time, it is a solitary bird: it is never found near the sea; but frequents rivers, lakes, and other fresh waters. In *France* it is highly esteemed for its delicate taste; and is taken with limed twigs placed near its haunts.

Mr.

Mr. *Fleischer* favored us with a bird from *Denmark*, which in all respects resembled this, except that the spots were of a pale rust color. *Linnaeus* describes it under the title of *Tringa littorea*, *Faun. Suec. sp.* 185. but we believe it does not differ specifically from that above described.

XI. The SANDPIPER.

Gallinula hypoleucos (Fyſtelin.)	Snappa, Strandfittare. <i>Faun.</i>
<i>Gefner av.</i> 509.	<i>Suec. sp.</i> 182.
<i>Aldr. av.</i> iii. 182.	Guinetta, la Guignette. <i>Briffon</i>
<i>Wil. orn.</i> 361.	<i>av.</i> v. 183. <i>tab.</i> 16. <i>fig.</i> 1.
<i>Raiſſyn av</i> 108.	<i>Norvegis</i> der lille Myrtikkel.
Sandlaufferl. <i>Kram.</i> 353.	<i>Bornholmis</i> Virlen. <i>Brunnich</i> 174.
<i>Tringa hypoleucos.</i> <i>Lin. ſyſt.</i>	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 125.
250.	

THIS species agrees with the former in its manners and haunts; but is more common: its note is louder and more piping than others of this genus. Its weight is about two ounces: the head is brown, streaked with downward black lines; the neck an obscure ash-color: the back and covert of the wings brown, mixed with a glossy green, elegantly marked with transverse dusky lines: over each eye is a white stroke: the breast and belly are of a pure white: the quill-feathers are brown, the first entirely so, the nine next marked on the inner web with a white spot: the middle feathers of the tail brown; the exterior tip with white: the legs of a dull pale green.

XII. The

XII. The D U N L I N.

Wil. orn. 205.*Raii syn. av.* 109.*Tringa alpina. Lin. syst.* 249.*Faun. Suec. sp.* 181.La Beccaffine d'Angleterre. *Bris-**son av. v.* 309.*Danis Domsneppe, Ryle. Brun-*
nich 167. & 173.*Br. Zool.* 126. *tab. fig.* 2.

Descr.

THIS species is at once distinguished from the others by the singularity of its colors. The back, head, and upper part of the neck are ferruginous, marked with large black spots: the coverts of the wings ash-color: the belly white, marked with large black spots, or with a black crescent pointing towards the thighs. In size it is superior to that of a lark. These birds are found on our sea-coasts; but may be reckoned among the more rare kinds. They lay four eggs of a dirty white color, blotched with brown round the thicker end, and marked with a few small spots of the same color on the smaller end.

XIII. The P U R R E.

L'Allouette de Mer. *Belon av.*

213.

Cinclus five *Motacilla Maritima,**Lysklicker. Gesner av.* 616.*Giarolo. Aldr. av. iii.* 188.The Stint. *Wil. orn.* 305.Stint, in *Suffex* the Ox-eye. *Raii**syn. av.* 110.*N. Com. Petr. iv.* 428.L'Allouette de Mer, *Cinclus.**Brissón av. v.* 211. *tab.* 19.*fig.* 1.*Tringa cinclus. Lin. syst.* 251.*Br. Zool.* 126.

Descr.

THIS bird is inferior in size to the former. The head and hind part of the neck are ash-colored, marked with dusky lines: a white stroke divides the bill

bill and eyes : the chin white : underfide of the neck mottled with brown : the back is of a brownish ash-color : the breast and belly white : the coverts of the wings and tail a dark brown, edged with light ash-color or white : the greater coverts dusky, tipped with white : the upper part of the quill-feathers dusky, the lower white : the two middle feathers of the tail dusky, the rest of a pale ash-color, edged with white : the legs of a dusky green ; the toes divided to their origin. The bill an inch and a half long, slender and black ; irides dusky.

These birds come in prodigious flocks on our sea-coasts during the winter : in their flight they perform their evolutions with great regularity ; appearing like a white, or like a dusky cloud, as they turn their backs or their breasts towards you. They leave our shores in spring, and retire to some unknown place to breed.

Genus V. P L O V E R S.

I. The S E A P I E.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| La Pie, Becasse de Mer. <i>Belon</i> | Marspitt, Strandskjura. <i>Faun.</i> |
| <i>av.</i> 203. | <i>Suec. sp.</i> 192. |
| Hæmatopus. <i>Gesner av.</i> 548. | Pica marina. <i>Caii opusc.</i> 62. |
| <i>Aldr. av.</i> iii. 176. | <i>N. Com. Petr.</i> iv. 425. |
| <i>Wil. orn.</i> 297. | Tirma, or Trilichan. <i>Martin's</i> |
| <i>Raii syn. av.</i> 105. | <i>voy. St. Kilda.</i> 35. |
| L'Hutrier, Pie de mer. <i>Briffon</i> | <i>Islandis mas Tialldur, fœminia</i> |
| <i>av. v.</i> 38. <i>tab.</i> 3. <i>fig.</i> 1. | <i>Tilldra. Feroensibus Kielder.</i> |
| The Oyster Catcher. <i>Cat. Carol.</i> | <i>Norvegis Tield v. Kield, Glib,</i> |
| <i>i.</i> 85. | <i>Strand-Skiure. Danis Strand-</i> |
| Hæmatopus ostralegus. <i>Lin. syst.</i> | <i>Skade. Brunnich.</i> 189. |
| 257. | <i>Br. Zool.</i> 127. |

SE A Pies are very common on most of our coasts ; feeding on marine insects, limpets, &c. Their bills, which are compressed sideways, and end obtusely, are very fit instruments to insinuate between the limpet and the rock those shells adhere to ; which they do with great dexterity to get at the fish. On the coast of *France*, where the tides recede so far as to leave the beds of oysters bare, these birds feed on them ; forcing the shells open with their bills. They keep in summer time in pairs, laying their eggs on the bare ground : they lay four of a whitish brown hue, thinly spotted and striped with black : when any one approaches their young, they make a loud and shrill noise. In winter they assemble in vast flocks, and are very wild.

This

This bird weighs sixteen ounces : the length, from the point of the bill to the end of the tail, seventeen inches ; to the end of the toes one inch more : the bill is three inches long, compressed on the sides, and obtuse at the end, which makes *Linnaeus* to compare it to a wedge : its color is a beautiful orange : The nostrils short and narrow : the tongue scarce a third the length of the bill. The irides are of a fine crimson : the edges of the eye-lids naked, and of a bright orange ; beneath the lower is a spot of white. The head, neck, scapulars, and lesser coverts of the wings are of a full black ; though in some the neck on each side beneath the cheeks is marked with white : the four first greater covert feathers are dusky, the rest tipped with white, the nearest slightly, but as they advance the white gradually gains ground till it possesses half the feather. The ends and exterior sides of the three first quill-feathers are black : the lower interior sides white : the six next are marked in the same manner with the addition of a white spot passing on each side the upper part of the shaft : the remaining feathers are white, marked on the upper end with a black spot ; the two last excepted, which are wholly white : the tail consists of twelve feathers ; their upper half is black, the lower white : the breast, belly, thighs, and under coverts of the wings are white : the legs and feet are thick and strong ; of a dirty flesh color : the middle toe is connected to the exterior toe as far as the first joint, by a thick membrane : the claws are dusky, short and flat.

II. The NORFOLK PLOVER.

Un Ostardeau, Oedicnemus.	Le grand Pluvier, Courly de
<i>Belon av.</i> 239.	terre. <i>Briffon av.</i> v. 76. tab. 7.
Charadrius (Triel vel Griel.)	fig. 1.
<i>Gesner av.</i> 256.	Charadrius oedicnemus. <i>Lin. syst.</i>
The Stone Curlew. <i>Wil. orn.</i>	255.
306.	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 127.
<i>Raii syn. av.</i> 108.	

DESCR. **T**HE weight of this species is eighteen ounces: The length to the tail eighteen inches: the breadth thirty-six. The head is remarkably round: the space beneath the eyes is bare of feathers, and of a yellowish green: the irides yellow: the feathers of the head, neck, back, and scapulars, and coverts of the wings are black, edged deeply with pale reddish brown: the belly and thighs are of a pure white: the two first quill-feathers are black, marked on the middle of each web with a large white spot. The tail consists of twelve feathers; the tips of the two utmost are black, beneath is a broad white bar, the remaining part barred with white and dusky brown: in the next feathers the white lessens; in the middle it almost disappears, changing it to a pale reddish brown, mottled with a darker: the legs are of a fine yellow: the toes very short, bordered with a strong membrane: the knees thick, as if swelled; from whence *Belon* gives it the name of *Oedicnemus* *. This bird is not very common in *England*: it is found sometimes on *Shirewood forest*, but in greatest plenty in *Norfolk*; where from a

* From οἰδεω, and νύμη.

similarity of colors to the Curlew, it is there called the *stone Curlew*. It breeds in rabbit borroughs, and is said to lay two eggs, of a copper color, spotted with a darker red. It is a nocturnal bird, and makes a whistling noise. Its food is worms and caterpillars. *Gesner* says it will catch mice.

III. The GREEN PLOVER.

- | | |
|--|---|
| LePluvier Guillemot. <i>Belon av.</i> 260. | <i>Dalekarlis Akerhona, Lappis</i> |
| Pluvialis. <i>Gesner av.</i> 714. | <i>Hutti. Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 190. |
| Pivier. <i>Aldr, av.</i> iii. 206. | Pluvialis aurea, le Pluvier doré. |
| <i>Wil. orn.</i> 308. | <i>Briffon av.</i> v. 43. tab. 4. fig. 1. |
| <i>Raii syn. av.</i> 111. | Piviero verde. <i>Zinan.</i> 102. |
| Brachhennl. <i>Kram.</i> 354. | <i>Norvegis Akerloe, Cimbris Brok</i> |
| Charadrius Pluvialis. <i>Lin. syst.</i> | <i>Fugl. Brunnich</i> 187. |
| 254. | <i>Br. Zool.</i> 128. |

THIS elegant species is often found on our moors and heaths, in the winter time, in small flocks. Its weight is nine ounces : its length eleven inches : *Deser.* its breadth twenty-four : the bill is short and black : the feathers on the head, back, and coverts of the wings are black, beautifully spotted on each side with light green : the breast brown, marked with greenish oblong strokes : the belly white : the middle feathers of the tail barred with black and yellowish green : the rest with black and brown : the legs black. We have observed some variety in these birds, but cannot determine whether it is owing to age or sex : we have seen some with black bellies, others with a mixture of black and white ; others with

B b

bluish

bluish legs, and some with a small claw in the place of the hind toe.

They lay four eggs, sharply pointed at the lesser end, of a dirty white color, and irregularly marked, especially at the thicker end, with black blotches and spots.

IV. The LONG LEGGED PLOVER.

Le grand Chevalier d'Italie.

Belon Portr. d'Oyseaux, 53.

Aldr. av. iii. 176.

Gesner av. 546.

Himantopus. Wil. orn. 297.

Raii syn. av. 106.

Sibb. Scot. 19. tab. 11. 13.

L'Echasse. Brisson av. v. 33.

tab. 3. fig. 1.

Charadrius himantopus. Lin. syst.

255.

Br. Zool. 128. add. plates.

Descr.

THIS is the most singular of the *British* birds; the legs are of a length, and weakness greatly disproportioned to the body, which is inferior in size to that of the green Plover: this added to the defect of the back toe, must render its paces aukward and infirm. The naked part of the thigh is three inches and a half long; the legs four and a half: these, and the feet are of a blood red: the bill is black, above two inches long. The length from its tip to the end of the tail is thirteen inches: the breadth from tip to tip of the wing twenty-nine inches: the forehead, and whole under side of the body are white: the crown of the head, back, and wings black: on the hind part of the neck are a few black spots: the tail is of a greyish white: the wings when closed extend far beyond it. These birds are extremely rare in

in these islands: Sir *Robert Sibbald* records a brace that were shot in *Scotland*: we have seen them often in the cabinets of the curious at *Paris*, taken on the *French* coasts.

V. The D O T T R E L.

Morinellus avis anglica. <i>Gesner</i>	Charadrius morinellus. <i>Lin. syst.</i>
av. 615.	254.
<i>Wil. orn.</i> 309.	<i>Lappis Lahul. Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 188.
<i>Raii syn. av.</i> 111.	<i>Caii opusc.</i> 96.
<i>Camden. Brit. i.</i> 570.	<i>Cimbris Pomerants Fugl. Norvegis</i>
Pluvialis minor, five morinellus,	Bold Tioet. Mindre Akerloe.
le petit Pluvier, ou le Guignard. <i>Briffon av. v.</i> 54. tab.	<i>Brunnich</i> 185.
4. fig. 2.	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 129.

THE female dottrel, according to Mr. *Willoughby*, weighs more than four ounces; the male above half an ounce less. The length of the female ten inches; the breadth nineteen and a half; the male not so large. The bill black, slender, depressed in the middle, and not an inch long: the forehead, top and back of the head of a brown black, the former spotted with white; a broad white stroke that passes over the eyes, surrounds the whole: the cheeks and throat are white: the neck of a deep olive color: the middle of the feathers of the back, and coverts of the tail, and of the wings, are also olive; but their edges of a dull deep yellow: the quill-feathers are brown, with black shafts; but the exterior side of the first feather is white. The tail consists of twelve feathers of a brown olive color, but their ends are black. The breast and sides are of a dull orange color;

color ; but immediately above that is a line of white, separating that color from the olive color of the neck. The belly (in the male) is black : thighs and vent-feathers white : legs black.

These birds are found in *Cambridgeshire*, *Lincolnshire* and *Derbyshire* : on *Lincoln-beath*, and on the moors of *Derbyshire* they are migratory, appearing there in small flocks of eight or ten only in the latter end of *April*, and stay there all *May* and part of *June*, during which time they are very fat, and much esteemed for their delicate flavor. In the months of *April* and *September* they are taken on the *Wiltshire* and *Berkshire* downs ; but where they breed, or where they reside during winter, we have not been able to discover. They are reckoned very foolish birds, so that a dull fellow is proverbially called a *Dottrel*. They were also believed to mimick the action of the fowler ; to stretch out a wing when he stretched out an arm, &c. continuing their imitation, regardless of the net that was spreading for them.

To this method of taking them, *Michael Drayton* alludes in his panegyrical verses on *Coryate's Crudities*,

Most worthy man with thee it is even thus,
As men take *Dottrels*, so hast thou ta'en us ;
Which as a man his arme or leg doth set,
So this fond bird will likewise counterfeit.

At present, sportsmen watch the arrival of the *Dottrels*, and shoot them ; the other method having been long disused.

VI. The S E A L A R K.

- Charadrius fuscus hiaticula. Aldr. Lappis Pago. Faun. Suec. sp.*
av. iii. 207. 187.
Wil. orn. 310. Pluvialis torquata minor, le petit
Raii syn. av. 112. Pluvier a collier. Brisson av.
Griesshennl. Kram. 354. v. 63. tab. 5. fig. 2.
Charadrius hiaticula. Lin. syst. Bornholmis Præste-Krave, Sand-
253. Vrister. Brunnich 184.
Strandpipare, Grylle, Trulls, Br. Zool. 129. add. plates.

IT weighs near two ounces. The length is seven Descr.
 inches and a half; the breadth sixteen; the bill is
 half an inch long; the upper half orange color; the
 lower black; from it to the eyes is a black line; the
 cheeks are of the same color; the forehead white,
 bounded by a black band that passes over from eye to
 eye; the crown of the head is of a fine light brown; the
 upper part of the neck is incircled with a white collar;
 the lower part with a black one; the back and coverts
 of the wings of a light brown; the breast and belly
 white; the tail brown, tipped with a darker shade; the
 legs yellow.

These birds frequent our shores in the summer.
 They lay four eggs of a dull whitish color, sparingly
 sprinkled with black: at approach of winter they
 disappear.

VII. The SANDERLING.

Sanderling, or Curwillet. *Wil.*
orn. 303.

Raii syn. av. 109.

Towillee. *Borlase hist. Cornwall.*
 247.

Calidris grisea minor, la petite

Maubeche grise. Brisson av.
v. 236. *tab.* 20. *fig.* 2.

Charadrius Caladris. Lin. syst.
 255.

Br. Zool. 129. *add. plates.*

WE have received this species out of *Lancashire*; but it is found in greater plenty on the *Cornish* shores, where they fly in flocks. The sanderling weighs little more than one ounce three quarters. Its length is eight inches; extent fiveteen. Its body is of a more slender form than others of the genus. The bill is an inch long, weak and black. The head, and hind part of the neck are ash-colored, marked with oblong black streaks; the back and scapulars are of a brownish grey, edged with dirty white; the coverts of the wings, and upper parts of the quill-feathers dusky: the whole under side of the body is white; in some slightly clouded with brown. The tail consists of twelve sharp pointed feathers of a deep ash-color; the legs are black.

The WATER RAIL.

p. 385.



Genus VI. The R A I L.

1. The WATER RAIL. *Tab. 9.*

- | | |
|--|---|
| Le Rasle noir. <i>Belon av. 112.</i> | Rallus aquaticus. <i>Lin. syst. 262.</i> |
| Gallina cinerea (ashhunlin.) <i>Gesner av. 515.</i> | <i>Faun. Suec. sp. 195.</i> |
| Ralla aquatica. <i>Aldr. av. iii. 179.</i> | Rallus aquaticus, le Rasle d'Eau. <i>Briffon av. v. 151. tab. 12. fig. 2.</i> |
| Water-rail, Bilcock, or Brook Ouzel. <i>Wil. orn. 314.</i> | <i>Norvegis Vand-Rixe Feroensibus Jord-Koene. Brunnich 193.</i> |
| <i>Raii syn. av. 113.</i> | <i>Br. Zool. 130.</i> |
| Wasser hennl. <i>Kram. 348.</i> | |

THE water rail is a bird of a long slender body, with short concave wings. It delights less in flying than running; which it does very swiftly along the edges of brooks covered with bushes: as it runs, every now and then flirts up its tail; and in flying hangs down its legs: actions it has in common with the water hen.

Its weight is four ounces and a half. The length to the end of the tail twelve inches: the breadth sixteen. The bill is slender, slightly incurvated, one inch three-quarters long: the upper mandible black, edged with red; the lower orange colored: the irides red: the head, hind part of the neck, the back, and coverts of the wings and tail are black, edged with an olive brown; the base of the wing is white: the throat, breast, and upper part of the belly are ash-colored: the sides under the wings finely varied with black and white bars. The tail is very short, consists of twelve black feathers; the ends of the two middle tipt with

rust-color. The legs are placed far behind, and are of a dusky flesh-color. The toes very long, and divided to their very origin; though the feet are not webbed, it takes the water; but as Mr. Ray observes, rather runs on it, than swims.

This bird is properly *sui generis*, agreeing with no other, so forms a separate tribe: M. Briffon and Linnæus place it with the land Rail, and Mr. Ray with the water hens, which have their peculiar characters, so very distinct from the Rail, as to constitute another genus, as may be observed in the generical table preceding this class.

Genus VII. WATER HENS.

I. The SMALL SPOTTED WATER HEN.

Gallinula ochra (Wynkernell.)

Gesner av. 513.

Porcellana, Porzana, Grugnetto.

Aldr. av. iii. 181.

Grinetta. Wil. orn. sp. 8. p.

315.

Raii syn. av. 115. sp. 7.

Rallus aquat. minor, five maru-

etta, le petit Rasle d'Eau, ou

la Marouette. Briffon av. v.

155. tab. 13. fig. 1.

Couchouan ou Marouette. Ar-

genv. Lithol. 533. tab. 25.

Rallus porzana. Lin. syst. 262.

Br. Zool. 130.

THIS species is not very frequent in Great-Britain. It inhabites the sides of small streams, concealing itself among the bushes. Its length is nine inches: its breadth fifteen; its weight four ounces five drachms. The head is brown, spotted with black; the neck a deep olive, spotted with white; from the bill beyond the eyes is a broad grey bar: the feathers of the back are black next their

THE HISTORY OF THE
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FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT
TO THE PRESENT TIME
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Paillou sculp.

Mazell Sculp.

their shafts, then olive colored, and edged with white: the scapulars are olive, finely marked with two small white spots on each web: the legs of a yellowish green.

II. The LAND RAIL. *Tab. 10.*

Le Rasle rouge ou de Genet.

Belon av. 212.

Ortygometra, Crex. *Gesner av.*

361, 362.

Aldr. av. iii. 179.

Rail, or Daker Hen. *Wil. orn.*

170.

Raii syn. av. 58.

Corn-crek. *Sib. Scot.* 16.

Corn-craker. *Martin's West. isles.*

71.

Rallus genistarum, le Rasle de

Genet, ou Roi des Cailles.

Briffon av. v. 159. *tab.* 13.

fig. 2.

Wachtel-konig. *Kram.* 349.

Rallus Crex. Lin. syst. 261.

Angsnarpa, Kornknarr, Seydreifwer. *Faun. Suec. sp.* 194.

Danis & Norw. Vagtel-Konge.

Aker-Rixe. Skov-Snarre, Nor-

vegis quibusdam Agerhoene.

Brunnich 192.

Br. Zool. 131.

THIS species has been supposed by some to be the same with the water rail, and that it differs only by a change of color at a certain season of the year: this error is owing to inattention to their characters and nature, both which differ entirely. The bill of this species is short, strong, and thick; formed exactly like that of the water hen, and makes a generical distinction. It never frequents watery places, but is always found among corn, grass, broom, or furze. It quits this kingdom before winter; but the water rail endures our sharpest seasons. They agree in their aversion to flight; and the legs, which are remarkably long for the size of bird, hang down whilst they are on the wing; they trust their safety to their swiftness of foot, and seldom are sprung a second time but with great difficulty. The land rail lays from twelve to

Descr.

to twenty eggs, of a dull white color, marked with a few yellow spots; notwithstanding this, they are not very numerous in this kingdom. Their note is singular, resembling the word *Crex* often repeated. They are in greatest plenty in *Anglesea*, where they appear about the twentieth of *May*, supposed to pass over from *Ireland*, where they abound. On their arrival they are very lean, weighing only six ounces; but before they leave this island, grow so fat as to weigh above eight. The feathers on the crown of the head, hind part of the neck, and the back, are black, edged with bay color: the coverts of the wings the same color; but not spotted: the tail is short, and of a deep bay: the belly white: the legs ash-colored.

III. The COMMON WATER HEN.

La Poulette d'eau. <i>Belon av.</i>	Gallinula, la Poule d'eau. <i>Brissone</i>
211.	<i>av. vi. 3. tab. 1.</i>
Ein wasserhen. <i>Gesner av. 501.</i>	Gallinella aquatica, Porzanone.
Chloropus majornosttra. <i>Aldr. av.</i>	<i>Zinan. 109.</i>
iii. 177.	Wasserhennl. <i>Kram. 358.</i>
Common Water-hen, or Moor-	Fulica chloropus. <i>Lin. syst. 258.</i>
hen. <i>Wil. orn. 312.</i>	<i>Brunnich 191.</i>
<i>Raii syn. av. 112.</i>	<i>Br. Zool. 131.</i>

Descr.

THE male of this species weighs about fifteen ounces. Its length to the end of the tail fourteen inches: the breadth twenty-two. The colors of the plumage in the female, are much less brilliant than that of the male: in size it is also inferior. Mr. *Willoughby* in his description takes no notice of the beautiful

Class II. SCOLLOP TOED SANDPIPER. 389

beautiful olive gloss of the plumage of these birds; nor that the bill assumes a fuller and brighter red in the courting season: his natural history of it in other respects is so very ample, that we shall present it to the reader, almost in his own words. It gets its food on grassy banks, and borders near fresh waters, and in the very waters, if they be weedy. It builds upon low trees and shrubs by the water-side; breeding twice or thrice in the summer; and when the young are grown up, drives them away to shift for themselves. They lay seven eggs of a dirty white color, thinly spotted with rust color. It strikes with its bill like a hen; and in the spring has a shrill call. We may observe, that the bottoms of its toes are so very flat and broad (to enable it to swim) that it seems the bird that connects the cloven footed aquatics with the next tribe; the fin toed.

Section II. FINNED FOOTED
B I R D S.

Genus VIII. Scollop toed Sandpipers.

I. The GREY SCOLLOP TOED SANDPIPER.

Grey Coot footed Tringa. <i>Edw.</i>	Tringa Lobata. <i>Lin. syst.</i> 249.
<i>av.</i> 308.	<i>Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 179.
<i>Phil. transf.</i> vol. 50.	<i>Brunnich.</i> 171.
Le Phalarope. <i>Briffon av.</i> vi. 12.	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 126.

Descr. **T**HIS is about the size of the common *Purre*, weighing one ounce. The bill black, not quite an inch long, flatted on the top, and channeled on each side; and the nostrils are placed in the channels: the eyes are placed remarkably high in the head: the forehead is white: the crown of the head is covered with a patch of a dusky hue, spotted with white and a pale reddish brown; the rest of the head, and whole under part of the neck and body are white: the upper part of the neck is of a light grey: the back and rump a deep dove color, marked with dusky spots: the edges of the scapulars are a dull yellow: the coverts dusky; the lower or larger tipt and edged with white: the eight first quill feathers dusky; the shafts white; the lower part of the interior side white: the smaller quill feathers are tipt with white: the wings closed, reach beyond the tail: the feathers on the back are either wholly grey or black, edged on each side with a pale red: the tail is dusky, edged with

Class II. SCOLLOP TOED SANDPIPER. 391

with ash-color: the legs are of a lead color: the toes extremely singular, being edged with scolloped membranes like the coot: four scollops on the exterior toe, two on the middle, and the same on the interior; each finely ferrated on their edges.

This bird was shot in *Yorkshire*, and communicated to us by Mr. *Edwards*.

II. The RED SCOLLOP TOED SANDPIPER:

Mr. <i>Johnson's</i> small cloven footed	<i>syn. av.</i> 132.
Gull. <i>Wil. orn.</i> 355.	<i>Edw. av.</i> 143.
<i>Ray's</i> collection of <i>English</i> words,	<i>Tringa hyperborea. Lin. syst.</i>
&c. p. 92.	249.
<i>Larus fidipes alter nostras. Raii</i>	

THIS bird is described by Mr. *Ray* from a specimen shot in *Yorkshire*; this species has not yet fallen within our notice, which obliges us to give its description in the words of our countryman.

“ It is of the bigness of a black-bird, or something
 “ less: its bill is slender, straight, sharp pointed,
 “ black, round, having no knob on the lower man-
 “ dible: the crown of a black or dark red: the sides
 “ and undersides of the neck red: the belly and whole
 “ nether side white: the back and wings brown,
 “ spotted with yellowish spots; in the wings is a
 “ transverse white line in the tips of the feathers: the
 “ wings are long: the tail short: the toes not web-
 “ bed together, but bordered on each side with
 “ lateral membranes scolloped and elegantly ferrated.
 “ Whence, when I first saw the skin of it stuffed at
 “ Mr. *Johnson's*, at *Brignall, Yorkshire*, from the make
 “ of its feet, I judged it to be of the coot kind; but
 “ being

“ being afterwards informed by Mr. *Johnson*, that it
 “ is much upon the wing, and hath sharp wings, and
 “ cries like a small gull, differs also in the fashion of
 “ the bill; I changed my opinion, &c.

Mr. *Edwards*, *tab.* 143. *fig.* 1. that bears a good deal of resemblance to this: and *Linnaeus*'s second species, No. 179. of the *Fauna Suecica*, seems to be the very same with Mr. *Ray*'s: so we find these birds are common to *England*, *Lapland* and *Hudson's Bay*. *Linnaeus* having received his from *Lapland*, and Mr. *Edwards* his from that part of *North America*.

Genus IX. The C O O T.

I. The C O O T.

La Poulle d'eau. <i>Belon av.</i> 181.	<i>av.</i> vi. 23. <i>tab.</i> 2. <i>fig.</i> 1.
Fulica recentiorum. <i>Gesner av.</i>	Folaga, o Polon. <i>Zinan.</i> 108.
390.	Rohr-hennl, Blasfl. <i>Kram.</i> 357.
Follega, Follata, Fulca. <i>Aldr. av.</i>	Fulica atra. <i>Lin. syst.</i> 257.
iii. 39. 42.	Blas-klacka. <i>Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 193.
<i>Wil. orn.</i> 319.	<i>Danis Vand-Hoene, Bles-Hoene.</i>
<i>Raii syn. av.</i> 116.	<i>Brunich</i> 190.
La Foulque, ou Morelle. <i>Briffon</i>	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 132.

Descr. **T**HESE birds weigh from twenty-four to twenty-eight ounces. Their belly is ash-colored; and on each wing is a spot of white: every part besides is of a deep black: the legs are of a yellowish green: above the knee is a yellow spot.

Coots frequent lakes and still rivers: they make their nest among the rushes, with grass, reeds, &c. floating on the water, so as to rise and fall with it. They lay five or six large eggs, of a dirty whitish hue, sprinkled over with minute deep rust color spots. In winter they often repair to the sea: we have seen

the channel near *Southampton* covered with them: they are often brought to that market, where they are exposed to sale, without their feathers, and scalded like pigs. Authors mention * another species of coot, which is larger and of a fuller black than this; we believe it is found in *Lancashire*, having seen the head and feet of one shot in that county of a size far superior to those of the common kind.

Genus X. GREBES†.

I. GREAT CRESTED GREBE.

Grand Plongeon de riviere.	<i>Colymbus cristatus.</i>	<i>Lin. syst.</i>
<i>Belon av.</i> 178.	222.	
Ducchel. <i>Gesner av.</i> 138.	<i>Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 151.	
<i>Aldr. av.</i> iii. 104.	La Grebe hupée. <i>Briffon av.</i> vi.	
<i>Avis pugnax</i> 8va. <i>Aldr.</i> 169.	38. tab. 4. et <i>Colymbus cor-</i>	
Greater crested and horned	nutus. 45. tab. 5. fig. 1.	
Doucker. <i>Wil. orn.</i> 340.	<i>Smergo, Fisolio marino. Zinan.</i>	
Ash-colored Loon of Dr. Brown,	107.	
<i>ibid: Raii syn. av.</i> 124.	<i>Danis Topped og Halskraved</i>	
<i>Plott's hist. Staff.</i> 229. tab. 22.	<i>Dykker, Topped Hav Skicere.</i>	
The Cargoose. <i>Charleton ex.</i> 107.	<i>Brunnich.</i> 135.	
<i>Pet. Gaz.</i> i. tab. 43. fig. 12.	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 132.	

THIS species weighs two pounds and a half. Deser.
Its length is twenty-one inches: the breadth thirty: the bill is two inches one-fourth long; red at the base; black at the point: the irides are of a fine

* Greater coot. *Wil. orn.* 320. *La Macroule. Briffon av.* vi. 28. tab. 2. fig. 2. *Fulica aterrima. Lin. syst.* 258.

† The Grebes and Divers are placed in the same genus, *i. e.* of *Colymbi*, by Mr. Ray and *Linnaeus*; but the difference of the feet, forbade our judicious friend, M. *Briffon*, from continuing them together; whose example we have followed.

pale red : the tongue is a third-part shorter than the bill, slender, hard at the end, and a little divided : on the head is a large dusky crest. The cheeks and throat are surrounded with a long pendent ruff, of a bright tawny color : the chin is white : from the bill to the eye is a black line, and above that a white one : the hind part of the neck, and the back are of a sooty hue : the rump, for it wants a tail, is covered with long soft down : the feathers on the ridge of the wing, and the under coverts are white : all the other wing feathers, except the lesser quill-feathers are dusky, those being white : the breast and belly are of a most beautiful silvery white, glossy as satin, and equal in elegance to those of the *Grebe* of *Geneva* ; and are applied to the same uses : the plumage under the wings is dusky, blended with tawny : the outside of the legs, and the bottom of the feet are dusky : the inside of the legs, and the toes of a pale green. These birds frequent the *meres* of *Shropshire* and *Cheshire*, where they breed. Their skins are made into tippets, which are sold at as high price as those that come from *Geneva*.

This species lays two eggs, white, and of the size of those of a pigeon ; the nest is formed of a few sticks, floating independent among the reeds and flags ; the water penetrates it, and the bird sits and hatches the eggs in that wet condition ; the nest is sometimes blown from among the flags into the middle of the water, and the *Grebe* is then said to steer it with its feet, which pass through : in these circumstances, the fable of the *Halcyon's* nest, its *fluctivaga domus*, as
Statius

Statius * expresse it, may in some measure be vindicated.

It is a careful nurse of its young, being observed to feed them most assiduously, commonly with small eels; and when the infant brood are tired will carry them either on its back or under its wings. This bird preys on fish, and is almost perpetually diving: it does not shew much more than the head above water, and is very difficult to be shot, as it darts down on the appearance of the least danger. It is never seen on land; and though disturbed ever so often, will not fly farther than the end of the lake. Its skin is out of season about *February*, losing then its bright color: and in the breeding time its breast is almost bare. The flesh of this bird is excessively rank: but the fat is of great virtue in rheumatic pains, cramps and paralytic contractions.

II. The G R E B E.

Colymbus major. <i>Gesner av.</i>	<i>Raii syn. av.</i> 125.
138.	Colymbus, la Grebe. <i>Briffon av.</i>
<i>Aldr. av.</i> iii. 104.	vi. 34. tab. 3. fig. 1.
Greater Loon, or Arsfoot. <i>Wil.</i>	Colymbus urinator. <i>Lin. syst.</i>
<i>orn.</i> 339.	223.
Greater Dobchick. <i>Edw. av.</i>	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 133.
360. fig. 2.	

THIS differs from the preceding in being rather less, and in wanting the crest and ruff, which adorns the head of the former: in all other respects

* *Fluctivagam sic sæpe domum, madidosque penates
Halcyone deserta gemit; cum pignora sævus
Auster, et algentes rapuit Thetis invida nidos.*

Thebaid. lib. ix. 360.

the marks agree, and the same descriptions may serve for both. This species is scarce in *England*: but common in the winter time on the lake of *Geneva*. They appear there in flocks of ten or twelve: and are killed for the sake of their beautiful skins. The under side of them being dressed with the feathers on, are made into muffs and tippetts; each bird sells for about fourteen shillings.

III. The LESSER CRESTED GREBE.

Eared Dobchick. *Edw. av.* 96. 223.
fig. 2. *Norvegis* Sav-Orré, Soe-Orré,
 La Grebe a Oreilles. *Brissón av.* *Bornholmis* Soe-Hoene. *Islandis*
vi. 54. Flaueskitt. *Brunnich* 136.
Colymbus auritus. Lin. syst. Br. Zool. 133.

Descr. **T**HIS species is rather less than a teal: the head and neck are black; the throat spotted with white: the whole upper side of a blackish brown, except the ridge of the wing about the first joint, and tips of the middle quill-feathers, which are white: the breast, belly and inner coverts of the wings are white: between the dark on the upper side, and white on the lower, is a mixture of rust-colored feathers. Behind the eyes, on each side, is a tuft of long loose feathers, hanging backwards. The irides are red: the legs of a dirty green. This species was found in the *London* markets by Mr. *Edwards*, in the winter of 1739; he afterwards received another from *Hudson's Bay*, which he thinks the male of this. From the bill to the eyes was a bare stripe of red; the feathers round the head,

Class II. WHITE AND DUSKY GREBE. 397

head, down to the middle of the neck, were black and very full ; and the front of the neck below them were of a reddish orange color : the irides red.

IV. The WHITE AND DUSKY GREBE.

The black and white Dobchick.

Briffon av. vi. 56.

Edw. av. 96. fig. 1.

Br. Zool. 133.

Colymbus minor, la petite Grebe.

IN size it was equal to a teal. The bill was little Descr.
more than an inch long. The crown of the head, and whole upper side of the body dusky : the inner coverts, the ridge of the wing, and the middle quill-feathers were white : the rest of the wing dusky : a bare skin of a fine red color joined the bill to the eye : the whole underside from the chin to the rump was white : on the thighs were a few black spots. In some birds the whole neck was ash-colored : so probably they might have been young birds or different in sex.

We have frequently seen this species sent out of *Lincolnshire*, where it breeds : and have observed some with a small red tuft arising from the ears, like that of the last species, but greatly less ; neither had the neck and breast the least tinge of red as the others have ; but whether they form distinct species, or are only varieties of the same bird, we cannot determine. But in respect to the following, the *little grebe* or *dobchick*, we venture to pronounce to be totally different, (notwithstanding *Linnaeus* constitutes but one species of our third, fourth, and fifth) having seen the fourth and fifth kinds at different periods of their life ;

and the third we insert on the authority of Mr. *Edwards*.

V. The LITTLE GREBE.

Le Castagneux, ou Zoucet. *Belon*
av. 177.

Mergulus fluviatilis (*Ducchelin*,
Artsfufs.) *Gesner av.* 141.

Trapazorola arzauolo, *Piombin*.
Aldr. av. iii. 105.

Didapper, *Dipper*, *Dobchick*,
small *Doucker*, *Loon*, or *Aif-*

foot. *Wil. orn.* 340.

Raii syn. av. 125.

Colymbus fluviatilis, la Grebe
de Riviere, ou le Castagneux.

Briffon av. vi. 59.

Colymbus auritus. Lin. syst. 223.

Faun. Suec. sp. 152.

Br. Zool. 134.

Descr. **T**HE weight of this species is from six to seven ounces. The length to the rump ten inches : to the end of the toes thirteen : the breadth sixteen. The head is thick set with feathers, those on the cheeks, in old birds are of a bright bay : the top of the head, and whole upper side of the body, the neck and breast, are of a deep brown, tinged with red : the greater quill-feathers dusky : the interior webs of the lesser white : the belly is ash-colored, mixed with a silvery white, and some red : the legs of a dirty green. The wings of this species, as of all the others are small, and the legs placed far behind : so that they walk with great difficulty, and very seldom fly. They trust their safety to diving ; which they do with great swiftness, and continue long under water. Their food is fish, and water plants. This bird is found in rivers, and other fresh waters. It forms its nest near their banks, in the water ; but without any fastning, so that it rises and falls as that does. To make its nest it collects an amazing quantity of grass,
water

water-plants, &c. It lays five or six white eggs; and always covers them when it quits the nest. It should seem wonderful how they are hatched, as the water rises through the nest, and keeps them wet; but the natural warmth of the bird bringing on a fermentation in the vegetables, which are full a foot thick, makes a hot bed fit for the purpose.

Section III. WEBBED FOOTED BIRDS.

Genus XI. The A V O S E T T A.

I. The A V O S E T T A.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Recurvirostra. <i>Gesner av.</i> 231. | Avosetta, L'Avocette. <i>Brissou av.</i> |
| Avosetta, Beccostorto, Beccoroella, | vi. 538. <i>tab.</i> 47. <i>fig.</i> 2. |
| Spinzago d'acqua. <i>Aldr. av.</i> | Krumbichnabl. <i>Kram.</i> 348. |
| iii. 114. | Recurvirostra Avosetta. <i>Lin. syst.</i> |
| <i>Wil. orn.</i> 321. | 256. |
| <i>Raii syn. av.</i> 117. | Skarflacka, Alfit. <i>Faun. Suec. sp.</i> |
| The Scooper. <i>Charlton ex.</i> 102. | 191. |
| The crooked Bill. <i>Dale's hist.</i> | <i>Danis</i> Klyde, Loufugl, Forkeert |
| <i>Harwich.</i> 402. | Ragnspove. <i>Br.</i> 188. |
| <i>Plott's hist. Staff.</i> 231. | <i>Br. Zool.</i> 134. |

THIS bird may at once be distinguished from all others, by the singular form of its bill; which is three inches and a half long, slender, compressed very thin, flexible, and of a substance like whalebone; and contrary to the bills of other birds, is turned up for near half its length. The tongue is

short: the head very round: that, and half the hind part of the neck black: the cheeks, and whole under side of the body from chin to tail is of a pure white: the back, exterior scapular feathers, the coverts on the ridge of the wings, and some of the lesser quill-feathers, are of the same color; the other coverts, and the exterior sides and ends of the greater quill-feathers, are black: the tail consists of twelve white feathers: the legs are very long, of a fine blue color, and naked far above the knees: the webs dusky, and deeply indented: the back toe extremely small.

These birds are frequent in the winter on the eastern shores of this kingdom: in *Gloucestershire*, at the *Severn's Mouth*; and sometimes on the lakes of *Shropshire*. They feed on worms and insects that they scoop with their bills out of the sand; their search after food is frequently to be discerned on our shores by alternate semi-circular marks in the sand, which shew their progress. They lay two eggs about the size of those of a pigeon, white tinged with green, and marked with large black spots.

Genus XII. A U K S.

* Those with thick Bills.

** Those with slender Bills.

*

I. The G R E A T A U K.

Goirfugel. *Clusii exot.* 367.Penguin *Wormii*, 300.*Wil. orn.* 323.*Raii syn. av.* 119.*Edw. av.* 147.*Martin's voy. St. Kilda.* 27.*Avis, Gare dicta. Sib. Scot.* iii.

22.

*Alca major, le grand Pingoin.**Briffon av. vi.* 85. *tab.* 7.*Eforokitsok **. *Crantz's Greenl.*

i. 82.

Alca impennis. Lin. syst. 210.*Faun. Suec. sp.* 140.*Islandis Gyr-v Geyrfugl. Norvegis**Fiært, Anglemaage, Penguin,**Brillefugl. Brunnich.* 105.*Br. Zool.* 136.

According to Mr. *Martin*, this bird breeds on the
 isle of *St. Kilda*; appearing there the begin-
 ning of *May*, and retiring the middle of *June*. It
 lays one egg, which is six inches long, of a white
 color, some are irregularly marked with purplish
 lines crossing each other, others blotched with black
 and ferruginous about the thicker end; if the egg is
 taken away, it will not lay another that season. A
 late writer * informs us, that it does not visit that
 Island annually, but sometimes keeps away for several
 years together; and adds, that it lays its egg close to
 the sea-mark; being incapable, by reason of the

* Or little wing.

† *Macaulay's hist. St. Kilda.* p. 156.

Descr. shortness of its wings, to mount higher. The length of this bird, to the end of its toes, is three feet; the bill, to the corner of the mouth, four inches and a quarter; part of the upper mandible is covered with short, black, velvet like feathers; it is very strong, compressed and marked with several furrows that tally both above and below: between the eyes and the bill on each side is a large white spot: the rest of the head, the neck, back, tail and wings, are of a glossy black: the tips of the lesser quill-feathers white: the whole under side of the body white; the legs black. The wings of this bird are so small, as to be useless for flight: the length, from the tip of the longest quill-feathers to the first joint, being only four inches and a quarter.

This bird is observed by seamen never to wander beyond *soundings* in the seas it frequents; and according to its appearance they direct their measures, being then assured that land is not very remote. Thus the modern sailors pay respect to *auguries*, in the same manner as *Aristophanes* tells us those of *Greece* did above two thousand years ago.

Προερεῖ τις αἰεὶ τῶν οὐνίδων μαντευομένῳ περὶ τῆ πλῆ,
 Νυνὶ μὴ πλεῖ, χειμῶν ἔσαι, νυνὶ πλεῖ, κερδος ἐπεσαι. *Aves.* 597.

From birds, in sailing men instructions take;
 Now lye in port; now sail and profit make.

II. The A U K.

- Razor-bill, Auk, Murre. *Wil. Alca torda. Lin. syst. 210.*
orn. 323. Tord, Tordmule. *Faun. Suec. sp.*
Raii syn. av. 119. 139.
The Falk. *Martin's voy. St. Norvegis Klub - Alke, Klympe.*
Kilda. 33. *Islandis Aulka, Klumbr, Klum-*
The Marrot. *Sib. hist. Fife. 48.* *burnevia. Groenlandis Awarfuk.*
Edw. av. 358. fig. 2. *Danis Alke. Brunnich. 100.*
Alca, le Pingoin. *Briffon av. vi. Br. Zool. 136.*
89. *tab. 8. fig. 1.*

THESE species weigh twenty-two ounces and a half. The length about eighteen inches: the breadth twenty-seven. The bill is two inches long, arched, very strong and sharp at the edges; the color black: the upper mandible is marked with four transverse grooves; the lower with three; the widest of which is white, and crosses each mandible. The inside of the mouth is of a fine pale yellow: from the eye to the bill is a line of white: the head, throat, and whole upper side of the body, are black; the wings of the same color, except the tips of the lesser quill-feathers, which are white: the tail consists of twelve black feathers, and is sharp pointed: the whole under side of the body is white: the legs black. Descr.

These birds, in company with the *Guillemot*, appear in our seas the beginning of *February*; but do not settle on their breeding places till they begin to lay, about the beginning of *May*. They inhabite the ledges of the highest rocks that impend over the sea, where they form a grotesque appearance; sitting close together, and in rows one above the other. They properly

properly lay but one egg a piece, of an extraordinary size for the bulk of the bird, being three inches long: it is either white, or of a pale sea green, irregularly spotted with black: if this egg is destroyed, both the auk and guillemot will lay another; if that is taken, then a third: they make no nest, depositing their egg on the bare rock: and though such multitudes lay contiguous, by a wonderful instinct each distinguishes its own. What is also matter of great amazement, they fix their egg on the smooth rock, with so exact a balance, as to secure it from rolling off, yet should it be removed, and then attempted to be replaced by the human hand, it is extremely difficult if not impossible to find its former equilibrium.

The eggs are food to the inhabitants of the coasts they frequent; which they get with great hazard; being lowered from above by ropes, trusting to the strength of their companions, whose footing is often so unstable that they are forced down the precipice, and perish together.

The BLACK BILLED AUK.

Alca minor, le petit pingoin. *Alca Pica*. *Lin. syst.* 210.
Briffon av. vi. 92. *tab.* 8. *Alca unisulcata*. *Brunnich.* 102.
fig. 2. *Br, Zool.* 137.

Descr. **T**HIS is a variety of the common kind: it weighs only eighteen ounces: the length fifteen inches and a half: the breadth twenty-five inches. The bill is of the same form with the Auk's, but is entirely

entirely black. The cheeks, chin, and throat are white; in all other respects it agrees with the former species: we can only observe, that this was shot in the winter; when the common sort have quitted the coasts.

When this bird was killed, it was observed to have about the neck abundance of lice, resembling those that infest the human kind, only they were spotted with yellow.

III. The P U F F I N.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>Puffinus anglicus.</i> <i>Gesner av.</i> | <i>av. vi. 81. tab. 6. fig. 1.</i> |
| 725. | <i>Caii opusc. 97.</i> |
| <i>Pica marina.</i> <i>Aldr. av. iii. 92.</i> | <i>Anas arctica. Clusii Exot. 104.</i> |
| <i>Puffin, Coulterneb, &c. Wil. orn.</i> | <i>Alca arctica. Lin. syst. 211.</i> |
| 325. | <i>Faun. Suec. sp. 141.</i> |
| <i>Raii syn. av. 120.</i> | <i>Islandis & Norveg. Lunde, hujus</i> |
| <i>Edw. av. 358. fig. 1.</i> | <i>pulli Lund Toller. Danis</i> |
| <i>The Bowger. Martin's voy. St.</i> | <i>Islandsk Papegoye. Brunnich.</i> |
| <i>Kilda. 34.</i> | 103. |
| <i>Fratercula, le Macareux. Brisson</i> | <i>Br. Zool. 135.</i> |

THIS bird weighs about twelve ounces: its Descr.
length is twelve inches: the breadth from tip to tip of the wings extended, twenty-one inches: the bill is short, broad at the base, compressed on the sides, and running up to a ridge, triangular and ending in a sharp point: the base of the upper mandible is strengthened with a white narrow prominent rim full of very minute holes: the bill is of two colors, the part next the head of a bluish grey, the lower part red: in the former is one transverse groove or furrow, in the latter three: the size of the bills of these birds vary:

vary : those of *Priestholme Isle* are one inch and three-quarters long ; and the base of the upper mandible one inch broad : but in the birds from the *Isle of Man* these proportions are much less.

The nostrils are very long and narrow ; commence at the above-mentioned rim, terminate at the first groove, and run parallel with the lower edge of the bill.

The *irides* are of a dusky color : and the edges of the eyelids of a fine crimson : on the upper eyelid is a singular callous substance, grey, and of a triangular form : on the lower is another of an oblong form : The crown of the head, whole upper part of the body, tail, and covert feathers of the wings are black ; but in some the feathers of the back are tinged with brown : the quill feathers are of a dusky hue. The tail is composed of sixteen feathers : the cheeks are white, and so full of feathers as to make the head appear very large and almost round : the chin of the same color ; bounded on each side by a broad bed of grey : from the corner of each eye is a small separation of the feathers terminating at the back of the head. The neck is encircled with a broad collar of black : but the whole lower part of the body as far as is under water is white, which is a circumstance in common with most of this genus. The legs are small, of an orange color, and placed so far behind as to disqualify it from standing, except quite erect : resting not only on the foot, but the whole length of the leg : this circumstance attends every one of the genus, but not remarked by any naturalist, except

except *Wormius*, who has figured the *Penguin*, a bird of this genus, with great propriety: this makes the rise of the Puffin from the ground very difficult, and it meets with many falls before it gets on wing; but when that is effected, few birds fly longer or stronger.

These birds frequent the coasts of several parts of *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*; but no place in greater numbers than *Priestholme Isle**, where their flocks may be compared to swarms of bees for multitude. These are birds of passage; resort thither in *April*, and dispossessing the rabbits of their holes, occupy them till *August*, when they all disappear. They lay but one egg, white, and of the size of that of a hen.

Their flesh is excessive rank, as they feed on sea weeds and fish, especially *Sprats*; but when pickled and preserved with spices, are admired by those who love high eating. Dr. *Caius* tells us, that in his days the church allowed them in lent, instead of fish: he also acquaints us that they were taken by means of ferrets, as we do rabbits: at present they are either dug out, or drawn from their burrows by a hooked stick: they bite extremely hard, and keep such fast hold on whatsoever they fasten, as not to be easily disengaged. Their noise, when taken, is very disagreeable; being like the efforts of a dumb person to speak.

The notes of all the sea birds are extremely harsh or inharmonious: we have often rested under the

* Off the coast of *Anglesea*.

rocks attentive to the various sounds above our heads, which mixed with the solemn roar of the waves swelling into and retiring from the vast caverns beneath, have produced a fine effect. The sharp voice of the sea gulls, the frequent chatter of the guillemots, the loud note of the auks, the scream of the herons, together with the hoarse, deep, periodical croak of the cormorants, which serves as a base to the rest ; has often furnished us with a concert, though not quite so melodious as some we have heard under the direction of Mr. *Abel* ; yet, joined with the wild scenery that surrounded us, have afforded, in a high degree, that species of pleasure which arises from the novelty, and we may say gloomy grandeur of the entertainment.

The winter residence of this whole genus (two species excepted) is unknown : it is probable they live at sea, in some more temperate climate, remote from land ; forming those multitudes of birds that navigators observe in many parts of the ocean : they are always found there at certain seasons, retiring only at breeding time : repairing to the northern latitudes ; and during that period are found as near the *Pole* as navigators have penetrated.

IV. The LITTLE AUK.

Little black and white Diver.

Wil. orn. 343.*Mergulus Melanoleucos* rostro
acuto brevi. *Raii syn. av.* 125.*Edw. av.* 91.*Uria minor*, le petit Guillemot.*Briffon av.* vi. 73.*Alca alle.* *Lin. syst.* 211.*Faun. Suec. sp.* 142.*Islandis* Halkioen, Havdirdell,*Norvegis* Soe Konge, Soeren

Jakob, Perdriker, Persuper,

Boefær, Borrefær, Hys Tho-

mas, *Feroensibus* Fulkop. *Groen-**landis* Akpaliafok. *Brunnich.*

106.

Gunner tab. 6.*Br. Zool.* 137.

THE bird our description was made from was taken in *Lancashire*; its bulk was not superior to that of a blackbird. The bill convex, short, thick, and strong; its color black. That of the crown of the head, the hind part of the neck, the back, and the tail black; the wings the same color; but the tips of the lesser quill-feathers white: the inner coverts of the wings grey: the cheeks, throat, and whole under side of the body white: the scapular feathers black and white: the legs and feet covered with dirty greenish white scales; the webs black. Deser.

Mr. *Edwards* has figured a bird that varies very little from this: and has added another, which he imagines differs only in sex: in that, the head and neck are wholly black; and the inner coverts of the wings barred with a dirty white.

VI. The

**

V. The GUILLEMOT.

Guillem, Guillemot, Skout, Kid-
daw, Sea-hen. *Wil orn.* 324.

Raii syn. av. 120.

The Lavy. *Martin's voy. St.*
Kilda. 32.

Edw. av. 359. *fig.* 1.

Uria, le Guillemot. *Briffon av.*
vi. 70. *tab.* 6. *fig.* 1.

Lommia. N. Com. Petr. iv. 414.

Colymbus Troile. Lin. syst. 2 20

Faun. Suec. sp. 149.

Islandis & Norvegis Lomvie, Lang-
gивie, Lomrifvie, Storfugl.

Brunnich. 108.

Br. Zool. 138.

Descr. **T**HIS species weighs twenty-four ounces: the length seventeen inches: the breadth twenty-seven and a half: the bill is three inches long; black, strait, and sharp pointed: near the end of the lower mandible is a small process; the inside of the mouth yellow: the feathers on the upper part of the bill are short, and soft like velvet: from the eye to the hind part of the head is a small division of the feathers. The head, neck, back, wings, and tail are of a deep mouse color; the tips of the lesser quill-feathers white: the whole under side of the body is of a pure white: the legs dusky.

These birds are found in amazing numbers on the high cliffs on several of our coasts, and appear at the same time as the auk. They are very simple birds; for notwithstanding they are shot at, and see their companions killed by them, they will not quit the rock. Like the auk, they lay only one egg, which is very large; some are of a fine pale blue, others white, spotted, or most elegantly streaked with lines crossing each other in all directions.

VI. The

VII. The LESSER GUILLEMOT.

Uria Svarbag. *Brunnich* 110. Ringuia.
Islandis Stutnefur, Svartbakur, *Br. Zool.* 138.

THE weight is nineteen ounces: the length sixteen inches: the breadth twenty-six. The bill two inches and a half long, shaped like the Guille-mots, but weaker. The top of the head, the whole upper part of the body, wings and tail are of the same color with the former: the cheeks, throat, and all the lower side of the body are white: from the corner of the eye is a dusky stroke, pointing to the hind part of the head: the legs are dusky: the tail very short, and consists of twelve feathers. Descr.

These birds frequent our coasts in the winter time; but that very rarely: where they breed is unknown to us; having never observed them on the rocks among the congenerous birds.

VIII. The BLACK GUILLEMOT.

Greenland-dove, or Sea-turtle.	418.
<i>Wil. orn.</i> 326.	<i>Uria minor nigra</i> , le petit
<i>Raii syn. av.</i> 121.	Guillemot noir. <i>Briffon av.</i> vi.
<i>Ray's itin.</i> 183, 192.	76.
Feiste, <i>Gunner. tab.</i> 4.	<i>Colymbus Grylle. Lin. syst.</i> 220.
<i>Turtur maritimus insulæ Bafs.</i>	<i>Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 148.
<i>Sib. hist. Fife.</i> 46.	<i>Islandis Teista, Norvegis Teiste.</i>
The Scraber. <i>Martin's voy. St.</i>	<i>Groenlandis Sarpak. Brunnich.</i>
<i>Kilda.</i> 32.	113.
Cajour, <i>Pynan. N. Com. Petr.</i> iv.	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 138.

Descr. **T**HE length of this species is fourteen inches : the breadth twenty-two : the bill is an inch and a half long ; strait, slender, and black ; the inside of the mouth red : on each wing is a large bed of white, which in young birds is spotted : the tips of the lesser quill-feathers, and the inner coverts of the wings, are white : except these, the whole plumage is black. In winter it is said to change to white : and a variety spotted with black and white * is not uncommon in *Scotland*. The tail consists of twelve feathers : the legs are red.

These birds are found on the *Bass-isle* in *Scotland* ; in the *Isle of St. Kilda* ; and, as Mr. Ray imagines, in the *Farn-islands* off the coast of *Northumberland* ; we have also seen it on the rocks of *Llandidno* in *Caernarvonshire*. It visits *St. Kilda's* in *March* : makes its nest far under ground ; and lays a grey egg ; or as

* The spotted *Greenland Dove* of Mr. Edwards, plate 50.

Class II. GREAT NORTHERN DIVER. 413

Steller says, whitish spotted with rust-color, and speckled with ash-color.

Genus XII. DIVERS.

I. The GREAT NORTHERN DIVER.

Clusius's Wil. orn. 342.

Raii syn. av. 125.

Mergus maximus Farrensis, five
Arcticus. *Clusii exot.* 102.

Colymbus maximus stellatus
nostras. Sib. hist. Scot. 20.
tab. 15.

Le grand Plongeon tacheté.

Briffon av. vi. 120. *tab.* 11.

fig. 1.

Colymbus glacialis. Lin. syst.
221.

Norvegis Brusen, Groenlandis
Tiulik. Brunnich. orn. 134.

Br. Zool. 139.

THE length of this species is three feet five inches : its breadth four feet eight : the bill to the corners of the mouth four inches long ; black and strongly made. The head and neck are of a deep black : the hind part of the latter is marked with a large semilunar white band : immediately under the throat is another ; both marked with black oblong strokes pointing down : the lower part of the neck is of a deep black, glossed with a rich purple : the whole under side of the body is white : the sides of the breast marked with black lines : the back, coverts of the wings, and scapulars, are black, marked with white spots : those on the scapulars are very large, and of a square shape ; two at the end of each feather. The tail is very short, and almost concealed by the coverts, which are dusky spotted with white : the legs are black. These birds inhabite the northern parts of this island,

live chiefly at sea, and feed on fish: we do not know whether they breed with us, as they do in *Norway*; which has many birds in common with *Scotland*.

II. The GREY SPECKLED DIVER.

Greatest speckled Diver, or	Le petit Plongeon. <i>Briffon av.</i>
Loon. <i>Wil. orn.</i> 341.	vi. 108. <i>tab.</i> 10. <i>fig.</i> 2.
<i>Raii syn. av.</i> 125.	<i>Mergus Stellatus Danis</i> Soe-
<i>Colymbus caudatus stellatus. N.</i>	Hane. <i>Brunnich.</i> 130.
<i>Com. Petr.</i> iv. 424.	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 139.

Descr. **T**HIS species weighs two pounds and a half: its length twenty-seven inches: its breadth three feet nine. The bill three inches long and turns a little upwards; the mandibles, when closed at the points, do not touch at the sides. The head is of a dusky grey, marked with numerous white spots: the hind part of the neck an uniform grey: the whole upper part of the body, and greater coverts of the wings dusky, speckled with white: the lesser coverts dusky, and plain. The tail consists of about twenty black feathers; in some tipped with white. The cheeks and whole under side of the body of a fine glossy white: and the feathers, as in all this genus, which resides almost perpetually on the water, are excessively thick, and close set: the legs are dusky.

These birds frequent our seas, lakes and rivers in the winter. On the *Thames* they are called *sprat loons*, for they attend that fish during its continuance in the river. They are subject to vary in the disposition and form of their spots and colors: some having their
necks

Class II. RED THROATED DIVER. 415

necks surrounded with a speckled ring : in some the spots are round, in others oblong.

III. The RED THROATED DIVER.

Northern Doucker. <i>Wil. orn.</i> 343.	Le Plongeon a gorge rouge—a
<i>Raii syn. av.</i> 125.	gorge noire. <i>Briffon av.</i> vi.
<i>Edw. av.</i> 97, 146.	111, & 115. <i>tab.</i> 11. <i>fig.</i> 1.
Lumme. <i>Wormii mus.</i> 304.	<i>Islandis & Norvegis</i> Loom v. Lum-
<i>Gunner.</i> <i>tab.</i> 2. <i>f.</i> 2.	me, <i>Danis Lomm.</i> <i>Brunnich.</i>
<i>Colymbus septentrionalis.</i> C.	132.
<i>arcticus.</i> <i>Lin. syst.</i> 220, 221.	<i>Br. Zool</i> 140.
<i>Lom. Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 150.	

A Species whose native country we suspect to be Norway; but having received one shot in *Lancashire*, and another taken alive on the river *Dee*, we give it a place here. Its shape is more elegant than that of the others. The weight is three pounds; the length, to the tail end, two feet; to that of the toes, two feet four inches: the breadth three feet five inches. The head small and taper: the bill strait, and less strong: the size about a fourth less than the preceding. The head and chin are of a fine uniform grey: the hind part of the neck marked with dusky and white lines, pointing downwards: the throat is of a dull red: the whole upper part of the body, tail and wings, of a deep grey almost dusky, but the coverts of the wings and the back, are marked with a few white spots: the underside of the body white: the legs dusky. The species with a black spot on the neck is supposed to differ only in sex from this. It is the *Lumme* of the *Norwegians*; is said to breed on the sides

Descr.

D d 3

sides of the lakes in the *Northern* parts of *Europe*, and to lay two eggs.

Genus XIII. G U L L S.

I. The GREAT BLACK AND WHITE GULL.

Wil. orn. 344.

Raii syn. av. 127.

Le Goiland noir. *Briffon av.* vi.
158.

Larus marinus. Lin. syst. 225.

Faun. Suec. sp. 155.

Danis Blaae Maage, Norvegis
Svartbag, Havmaase. Brunnich.

145.

Br. Zool. 140.

Descr.

THE weight of this species is near five pounds : the length twenty-nine inches : the breadth five feet nine. The bill is very strong and thick, and almost four inches long ; the color a pale yellow ; but the lower mandible is marked with a red spot, with a black one in the middle. The irides yellow : the edges of the eye-lids orange color : the head, neck, whole under side, tail and lower part of the back, are white : the upper part of the back, and wings, are black : the quill-feathers tipped with white : the legs of a pale flesh color.

This kind inhabites our coasts in small numbers ; and breeds in the highest cliffs. It feeds not only on fish : but like the Raven, very greedily devours carrion. Its egg is very blunt at each end ; of a dusky olive color, quite black at the greater end ; and the rest of it thinly marked with dusky spots.

II. The

II. The S K U A.

Our *Cataraeta*, I suppose the
Cornish Gannet. *Wil. orn.*
 348.

Raii syn. av. 128.

Cataraetes. *Sibb. Scot. tab.* 14.

Sea Eagle. *Sibb. hist. Fife.* 46.

Le Stercoraire rayé. *Briffon av.*
 vi. 152.

Pontopp. Norw. ii. 96.

Skua Hoieri. *Clusii Exot.* 368,
 369.

Larus Cataraetes. *Lin. syst.* 226.

Skua. *Brunnich. ornith.* 33.

Feroensibus Skue. *Islandis Skumr.*

Norvegis Kav-Oern. *Brunnich.*
 125.

Brown and ferruginous Gull. *Br.*
Zool. 140.

THIS is the most formidable of the gull kind: its prey being not only fish, but, what is very wonderful in a webbed-footed bird, all the lesser sorts of water fowl, such as teal, &c. Mr. Schroter, a surgeon, in the *Ferroe isles*, relates that it likewise preys on ducks, poultry, and even young lambs. It has all the fierceness of the eagle in defending its young; and attacks with vast force those that attempt taking them. When the inhabitants of the islands visit the nest, they hold a knife erect over their heads, on which the *Skua* will transfix itself in precipitating itself on the invaders. The strength of the bill and claws is superior to that of any other of the genus; the former is two inches one fourth long, very much hooked at the end, and very sharp; the upper mandible is covered more than half way with a black cere or skin, as in the hawk kind; the nostrils are placed obliquely near the end, and are pervious: the legs are covered with large black scales, the claws strong, sharp and crooked, those of the inner toes remarkably so. The feathers on the head, neck, breast, and

whole upper side of the body and wings, are of a very deep brown, marked with rust color in their middle: the upper part of the quill-feathers are dusky, the lower parts and the shafts white: the tail consists of twelve feathers white at their roots, and dusky all above; the inner coverts of the wings deep brown, the breast, belly, and vent feathers, mixed with ash-color and red. This bird belongs to *Scotland*, and the *North of England*. What Mr. Ray and Mr. Smith* suppose to be the *Cornish Gannet*, we shall shew in another place to be a different bird. Mr. Macaully† mentions a gull that makes great havock among the eggs and sea fowl of *St. Kilda*; it is there called *Tuliac*: his description suits that of the *herring Gull*; but we suspect he confounds these two kinds, and has transferred the manners of this species to the latter.

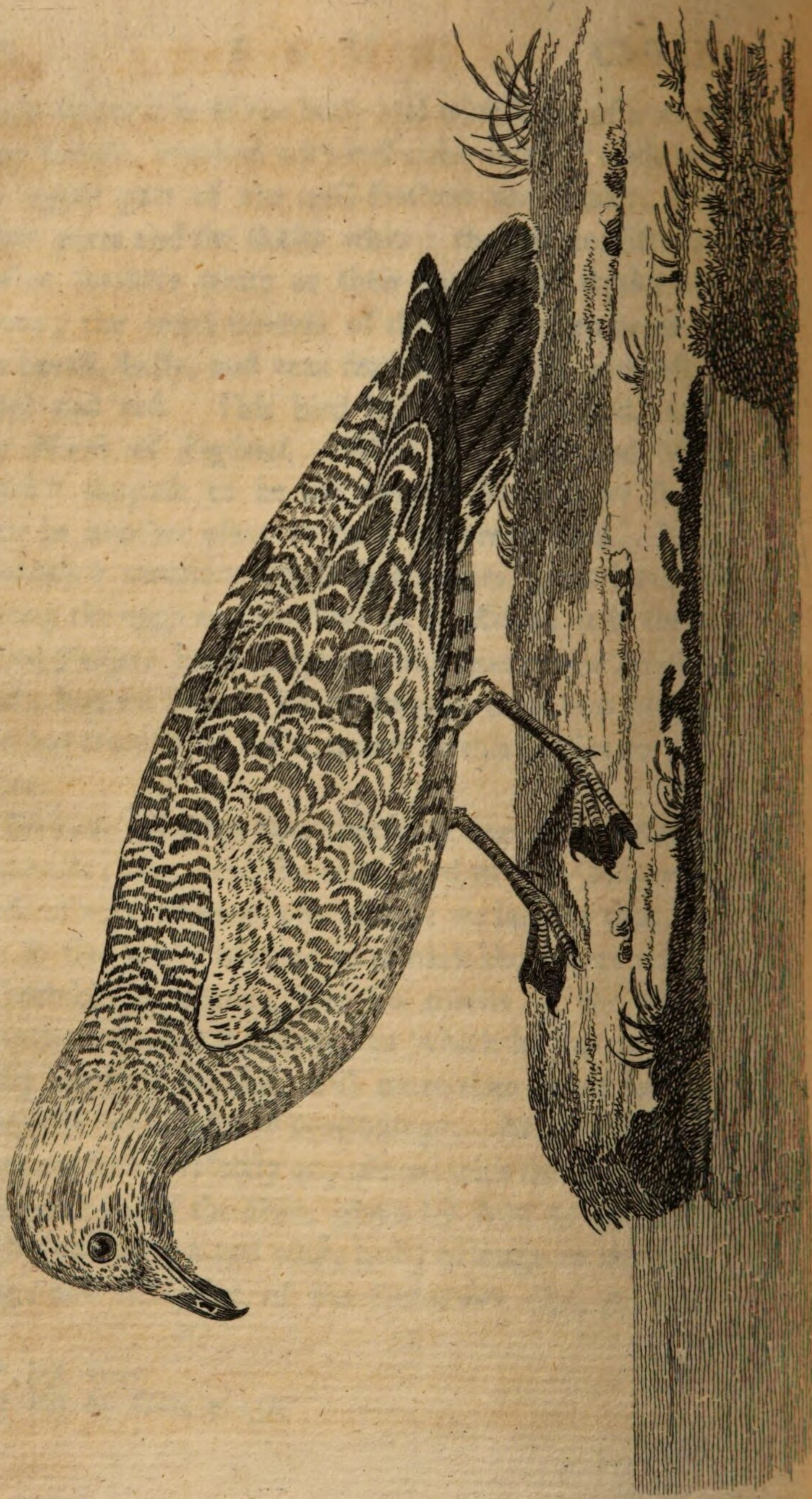
Linnaeus involves two species in the article *Larus Cataraeta*; this, and the *arctic* bird of Mr. Edwards, birds of very different characters: we lament that we are so frequently obliged to remark the errors of so respectable a name; but his merits in the other branches of natural history, to which he has principally devoted himself, will more than atone for his frequent over-sights in ornithology. M. *Briffon* also does not seem perfectly acquainted with this bird; for the synonym of the *Skua*, given by him to his fifth gull (our brown and white gull) belongs to this species; and his print of the *Stercoraire rayé*, p. 152.

* *Hist. Kerry.*

† *Hist. St. Kilda.* p. 158.

BLACK TOED GULL.

p. 419.



Class II: BLACK TOED GULL. 419

tab. 13. tom. vi. to which he has given the synonym of Mr. *Edwards's* arctic bird, seems to be the very same which we have here described.

III. The BLACK TOED GULL. *Tab. II.*

Cepphus. *Aldr. av.* iii. 38.

Wil. orn. 351.

Raii syn. av. 129.

The Cepphus. *Phil. Transact.*

vol. 52. 135.

Catharacta Cepphus, Strand-hoeg.

Brunnich. ornith. 126.

THIS species weighs eleven ounces : its length is Descr.
fifteen inches : its breadth thirty-nine : the bill
is one inch and a half long, the upper part covered
with a brown cere : the nostrils like those of the
former ; the end black and crooked. The feathers of
the forehead come pretty low on the bill : the head
and neck are of a dirty white : the hind part of the
latter plain, the rest marked with oblong dusky spots.
The breast and belly are white, crossed with numerous
dusky and yellowish lines : the feathers on the sides
and the vent, are barred transversely with black and
white : the back, scapulars, coverts of the wings and
tail, are black, beautifully edged with white or pale
rust color : the shafts and tips of the quill-feathers
are white : the exterior web, and upper half of the in-
terior web black, but the lower part of the latter
white : the tail consists of twelve black feathers tipped
with white ; the two middle of which, are near an
inch longer than the others : the shafts are white ;
and the exterior webs of the outmost feather is spotted
with

with rust color. The legs are of a bluish lead color : the lower part of the toes and webs black.

A bird of this kind was taken near *Oxford*, and communicated to the Royal Society by Dr. *Lysons*, of *Gloucester*.

IV. The ARCTIC GULL.

The Struntjagger, or Dung-
hunter. *Marten's Spitzberg.* 87.
The Arctic Bird. *Edw. av.* 148,
149.

Larus Parasiticus. *Lin. syst.* 226.
Swartlasse, Labben, Elof. Faun.
Suec. sp. 156.
Brunnich. 127.

WE received the female of this species from the reverend Mr. *Fletcher*, of the county of *Galway*, who informed me it was shot on that coast. All writers that mention it agree, that it has the property of pursuing the lesser gulls so long, that they mute for fear, and that it catches up and devours their excrement before they drop into the water ; from which the name. *Linnaeus* wittily calls it the *Parasite*, alluding to its fordid life.

Descr.

The length of this species is twenty-one inches : the bill is dusky, about an inch and a half long, pretty much hooked at the end, but the strait part is covered with a sort of cere. The nostrils are narrow, and placed near the end, like the former. In the *male*, the crown of the head is black : the back, wings, and tail dusky ; but the lower part of the inner webs of the quill-feathers white : the hind part of the neck, and whole underside of the body white : the tail consists

fifts of twelve feathers, the two middlemost near four inches longer than the others: the legs black, small, and scaly.

The *female* was entirely brown; but of a much paler color below than above: the feathers in the middle of the tail were only two inches longer than the others. The specimen from which Mr. *Edwards* took the figure of his female *Arctic* bird, had lost those long feathers, so he has omitted them in the print.

Linnaeus has separated this from its mate, his *Larus parasiticus*, and made it a synonym to his *L. Cataractes*, a bird as different from this as any other of the whole genus.

V. The HERRING GULL.

Wil. orn. 345.

Raii syn. av. 127.

Le Goiland gris. *Briffon av.* vi.
162.

Larus fuscus. Lin. syst. 125.

Faun. Suec. sp. 154.

Danis Silde-Maage. Islandis Vey-
debjalla. Brunnich. 142.

Br. Zool. 141.

THIS gull weighs upwards of thirty ounces: the length twenty three inches; its breadth fifty-two. The bill yellow, and the lower mandible marked with an orange colored spot: the irides *straw color*: the edges of the eye-lids red: the head, neck, and tail white: the back, and coverts of the wings, ash-colored: the upper part of the five first quill-feathers are black, marked with a white spot near their end: the legs of a pale flesh-color. These birds breed on the ledges of rocks that hang over the sea: they make a large nest of dead grass, and lay three eggs

Descr.

422 BROWN AND WHITE GULL. Class II.

eggs of a dirty white, spotted with black. The young are ash-colored, spotted with brown; they do not come to their proper color the first year: this is common to other gulls; which has greatly multiplied the species among authors, who are inattentive to these particulars. This gull is a great devourer of fish, especially of that from which it takes its name: it is a constant attendant on the nets, and so bold as to seize its prey before the fishermen's faces.

VI. The BROWN AND WHITE GULL.

Great grey Gull, the Cornish	Larus Nævius. <i>Lin. syst.</i> 225.
Wagel. <i>Wil. orn.</i> 349.	Danis Graae - Maage. <i>Islandis</i>
<i>Raii syn. av.</i> 130.	Kablabrinkar. <i>Brunnich.</i> 150.
Le Goiland variè, ou le Grifard.	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 141.
<i>Briffon av.</i> vi. 167. <i>tab.</i> 15.	

Descr. **T**HE bird we examined, weighed thirty-two ounces: the length was one foot eleven inches: the breadth four feet eight: the irides are dusky: the bill black, and near three inches long. The whole plumage of the head and body, above and below, is a mixture of white, ash-color, and brown: the last color occupies the middle of each feather; and in some birds is pale, in others dark: the quill-feathers black: the lower part of the tail is mottled with black and white; towards the end is a brown black bar, and the tips are white: the legs are of a dirty white.

Some have supposed this to be the young of the preceding species, which (as well as the rest of the gull

gull tribe) scarce ever attains its true colors till after the first year : but it must be observed, that the first colors of the irides, of the quill-feathers, and of the tail, are in all birds permanent ; these, as we have remarked, differ in each of these gulls so greatly, as ever to preserve unerring notes of distinction.

This species is likewise called by some the *Dung Hunter* ; for the same reason as the last is styled so.

VII. The WINTER MEW.

Winter Mew, or Cuddy Moddy.	Gavia Hyberna, le Mouette
<i>Wil. orn.</i> 350.	d'hiver. <i>Briffon av.</i> vi. 189.
<i>Raii syn. av.</i> 130.	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 142.

THIS weighs from fourteen to seventeen Descr. ounces : the length eighteen inches ; the breadth three feet nine. The irides are hazel : the bill two inches long, but the slenderest of any gull ; it is black at the tip, whitish towards the base. The crown of the head, and hind part, and sides of the neck, are white, marked with oblong dusky spots ; the forehead, throat, middle of the breast, belly and rump, are white ; the back and scapulars, are of a pale grey ; the last spotted with brown ; the coverts of the wings are of a pale brown, edged with white ; the first quill-feather is black ; the succeeding are tipped with white : the tail is white, crossed near the end with a black bar ; the legs of a dirty white.

This kind frequents, during winter, the moist meadows in the inland parts of *England*, remote from the sea. The gelatinous substance, known by the name

name of *Star Shot*, or *Star Gelly*, owes its origin to this bird, or some of the kind; being nothing but the half digested remains of earth-worms, on which these birds feed, and often discharge from their stomachs*.

Linnaeus, p. 224. makes this species synonymous with the *Larus tridactylus* or *Tarrocks*; but as we have had opportunity of examining several of each species, and find in all, those strong distinctions remarked in our descriptions, we must decline assenting to the opinion of that eminent naturalist.

VIII. The COMMON GULL.

Galedor, Crocala, Galetra. <i>Aldr.</i>	La Mouette cendrée. <i>Briffon av.</i>
<i>av.</i> iii. 34.	vi. 175. tab. 16. fig. 1.
Common Sea Mall. <i>Wil. orn.</i>	Gabbiano minore. <i>Zinan.</i> 115.
345.	<i>Larus canus. Lin. syst.</i> 224.
Common Sea Mall, or Mew.	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 142.
<i>Raii syn. av.</i> 127.	

THIS is the most numerous of the genus. It breeds on the ledges of the cliffs that impend over the sea: in winter they are found in vast flocks on all our shores. They differ a little in size; one we examined weighed twelve ounces and a half: its length was seventeen inches: its breadth thirty-six; the bill yellow: the head, neck, tail, and whole under side of the body, a pure white: the back, and coverts of the wings, a pale grey: near the end of the greater quill-feathers was a black spot: the legs a dull white, tinged with green.

* Vide *Morton's Nat. Hist. Northampt.* p. 353.

IX. The TARROCK.

La Mouette cendrée. *Belon av.*
169.

Gavia cinerea alia. *Aldr. av.* iii.
35.

Wil. orn. 346.

Raii syn. av. 128.

Larus tridactylus. Lin. syst. 224.
Faun. Suec. sp. 157.

La Mouette cendrée tachetée.
Briffon av. vi. 185. *tab.* 17.
fig. 2.

Br. Zool. 142.

THE length is fourteen inches; the breadth Descr.
three feet: the weight only seven ounces.
The bill is black, short, thick, and strong, the head
large: the color of that, the throat, neck, and whole
under side are white: near each ear, and under the
throat, is a black spot: on the hind part of the neck
is a black crescent, the horns pointing to the throat:
the back and scapulars are of a bluish grey: the lesser
coverts of the wings dusky, edged with grey; the
larger next to them, of the same color; the rest grey:
the exterior sides, and ends of the four first quill-
feathers are black: the tips of the two next black; all
the rest wholly white: the ten middle feathers of the
tail white, tipped with black; the two outmost quite
white: the legs of a dusky ash-color. In lieu of the
back toe, it has only a small protuberance, which is a
certain character of this kind.

X. The PEWIT GULL.

Cepphus Turneri. Gesner av.
249.

Larus cinereus tertius. Aldr. av.
iii. 35.

Pewit, or Black Cap, Sea Crow,
Mire Crow. *Wil.* 347.

Raii syn. av. 128. *itin.* 217.

Pewit. *Plott's hist. Staff.* 231.

Puit. Fuller's Brit. worthies. 318.

La Mouette rieuse a pattes
rouges. *Briffon av.* vi. 196.

Gabbiano cinerizio col rostro, e
col li piedi rossi. *Zinān.* 115.

Larus ridibundus. Lin. syst. 225.
Br. Zool. 143.

THESE birds breed in vast numbers, in the islands of certain pools in the county of *Stafford*; and, as *Dr. Fuller* tells us, in another on the *Essex* shores. They are birds of passage; resort there in the spring; and after the breeding season disperse to the sea coasts: they make their nest on the ground, with rushes, dead grass, and the like; and lay from four to six eggs, of a dirty olive color, marked with black. The young were formerly highly esteemed, and numbers were annually taken, and fattened for the table. *Plott* gives a marvellous account of their attachment to the lord of the soil they inhabite; in-somuch that on his death, they never fail to shift their quarters for a certain time.

The notes of these gulls distinguish them from any
Descr. others; being like a hoarse laugh. Their weight is about ten ounces: their length fifteen inches; their breadth thirty-seven. Their bills and legs are of a sanguine red: the heads and throats black or dusky: the neck, and all the under side of the body, and the tail, a pure white: back and wings ash-colored: tip, and exterior

exterior edge of the first quill-feather black ; the rest of that feather white ; the next to that, tipped with black, and marked with the same on the inner web.

IX. The SMALL BROWN GULL.

The brown Tern. *Wil. orn.* *Sterna nigra. Lin. syst.* 227.
 352. *Faun. Suec. sp.* 159.
Sterna fusca. Raii syn. av. 131. *Br. Zool.* 143.

MR. Ray has left us the following obscure account of this bird ; communicated to him by Mr. Johnson, a Yorkshire gentleman. “ The whole
 “ under-side is white ; the upper brown : the wings
 “ partly brown, partly ash-color : the head black :
 “ the tail not forked : these birds fly in companies.” Descr.

From the description, we suspect this bird to be the young of the next species, that had not yet attained its proper colors, nor the long feathers of the tail, which it does not acquire till mature age.

Besides this, *Sibbald* has left us the name and figure of a gull that breeds in the *Bass isle* ; he calls it *Kittiwake* ; and adds, that it is the size of a pigeon, and as good meat as a partridge *.

* *Sib. hist. Scot.* 20. tab. 16. fig. 2. *Hist. Fife.* 44.

Genus XV. TERN S*.

I. The GREATER TERN.

Sterna (Stirn, Spyrrer, Schnirring)

Gesner av. 586.*Aldr. av.* iii. 35.The Sea Swallow. *Wil. orn.* 352.*Raii syn. av.* 131.

Sterna major, la grande Hiron-

delle de mer. *Briffon av.* vi.203. *tab.* 19. *fig.* 1.Sterna hirundo. *Lin. syst.* 227.Tarna. *Faun. Suec. sp.* 159.The Kirmew. *Marten's Spitz-*
berg. 92.*Islandis* Kria, *Norvegis* Tenne,

Tende, Tendelobe, Sand-

Tolle, Sand-Tærne. *Danis*Tærne. *Bornholmis* Kirre,Krop-Kirre. *Brunnich.* 151.Grauer fischer. *Kram.* 345.*Br. Zool.* 144.

Descr.

THIS kind weighs four ounces, one-quarter: the length is fourteen inches; the breadth thirty: the bill and feet are of a fine crimson; the former tipt with black, strait, slender, and sharp pointed: the crown, and hind part of the head, black: the throat, and whole under side of the body, white: the upper part, and the coverts of the wings, a fine pale grey: the tail consists of twelve feathers; the exterior edges of the three outmost are grey, the rest white: the exterior, on each side, is two inches longer than the others: in flying, the bird frequently closes them together, so as to make them appear one slender feather. These birds frequent the sea shores, banks of lakes and rivers: they feed on small fish, and water insects; hovering over the water, and suddenly

* A name these birds are known by in the *North of England*; and which we substitute instead of the old compound one of *Sea Swallow*; which was given them on account of their forked tails.

darting

darting into it, catch up their prey. They breed among small tufts of rushes; and lay three or four eggs, of a dull olive color, spotted with black. All the birds of this genus are very clamorous.

II. The LESSER TERN.

Larus piscator (Fischerlin, Fel.)	La petite Hirondelle de mer.
<i>Gesner av.</i> 537. <i>fig.</i> 588.	<i>Briffon av.</i> vi. 206. <i>tab.</i> 19.
<i>Aldr. av.</i> iii. 35.	<i>fig.</i> 2.
Lesser Sea Swallow. <i>Wil. orn.</i>	Larus Minuta. <i>Lin. syst.</i> 228.
353.	Hætting Tærne. <i>Brunnich.</i> 152.
<i>Raii syn. av.</i> 131.	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 144.

THE manners, haunts, and food of this are the same with the former: but the species are more numerous. The weight is only two ounces five grains: the length eight inches and a half; the breadth nineteen and a half. The bill is yellow, tipped with black: the forehead and cheeks white: from the eyes to the bill is a black line: the top of the head, and hind part black: the breast, and under side of the body, cloathed with feathers so closely set together, and of such an exquisite rich gloss, and so fine a white, that no satin can be compared to it: the back and wings of a pale grey: the tail short, less forked than that of the former, and white: the legs yellow: the irides dusky. These two species are very delicate, and seem unable to bear the inclemency of the weather, on our shores * during winter: for we observe they quit their breeding places at the approach of it; nor return till spring.

* North Wales.

III. The BLACK TERN.

Larus niger (Meyvogelin) *Gesner*

av. 588. *fig.* 589.

Aldr. av. iii. 35.

The Scare Crow. *Wil. orn.* 353.

Our black cloven-footed Gull.

Idem. 354.

Raii syn. av. 131. *idem* 132.

No. 6.

L'Epouvantail. *Briffon av.* vi.

211. *tab.* 20. *fig.* 1.

Sterna fassipes. *Lin. syst.* 228.

Sielandis Glitter. *Brunnich* 153.

Br. Zool. 145.

Descr.

THIS is of a middle size, between the first and second species. The head, neck, breast and belly, as far as the vent are black; beyond is white: the male has a white spot under its chin: the back and wings are of a deep ash-color: the tail is short and forked; the exterior feather on each side is white; the others ash-colored: the legs and feet of a dusky red. Mr. Ray calls this a cloven-footed gull; as the webs are depressed in the middle, and form a crescent. These birds frequent fresh waters; and breed on their banks, among the reeds.

Genus

Genus XVI. PETRELS.

I. The FULMAR.

Wil. orn. 395.Fulmar. *Martin's voy. St. Kilda.*30. *Descr. west. isles.* 283.Fulmer. *Macaulay's hist. St. Kilda.*

145.

Haffhest. *Clusii exot.* 368.

Procellaria cinerea, le Petrel cen-

drè. *Briffon av. vi.* 143.

tab. 12. fig. 2.

Pl. enl. 59.*Lin. syst.* 213.The Mallemucke. *Marten's Spitz-*
berg. 93.Hav-Hest. *Gunner, tab.* 1.Procellaria glacialis. *Brunnich*
ornith. 118.*Norvegis* Hav-Hest, Mallemokev. Mallemuke. *Brunnich.* 118.*Br. Zool.* 145.

THIS species inhabites the isle of *St. Kilda*: makes its appearance there in *November*, and continues the whole year, except *September* and *October*; it lays a large, white, and very brittle egg; and the young are hatched the middle of *June*. No bird is of equal use to the islanders as this: the *Fulmar* supplies them with oil for their lamps, down for their beds, a delicacy for their tables, a balm for their wounds, and a medicine for their distempers. The *Fulmar* is also a certain prognosticator of the change of the wind; if it comes to land, no west wind is expected for some time; and the contrary when it returns and keeps at sea.

The whole genus of *Petrels* have a peculiar faculty of spouting from their bills, to a considerable distance, a large quantity of pure oyl; which they do by way of defence, into the face of any that attempts

to take them : * so that they are, for the sake of this *panacea*, seized by surprize ; as this oil is subservient to the above-mentioned medical uses. *Martin* tells us, it has been used in *London* and *Edenburgh* with success, in *Rheumatic* cases.

Delcr. The size of this bird is rather superior to that of the common gull : the bill very strong, much hooked at the end, and of a yellow color. The nostrils are composed of two large tubes, lodged in one sheath : the head, neck, whole under side of the body, and tail, are white ; the back, and coverts of the wings ash-colored : the quill-feathers dusky : the legs yellowish. In lieu of a back toe, it has only a sort of spur, or sharp strait nail. These birds feed on the blubber or fat of whales, &c. which, being soon convertible into oil, supplies them constantly with means of defence, as well as provision for their young, which they cast up into their mouths. They are likewise said to feed on *sorrel*, which they use to qualify the unctious diet they live on.

Frederick Martens, who had opportunity of seeing vast numbers of these birds at *Spitzbergen*, observes, that they are very bold, and resort after the whale fishers in great flocks, and that when a whale is taken, will, in spite of all endeavours, light on it and pick out large lumps of fat, even when the animal is alive. That the whales are often discovered at sea

* In the *General Advertiser*, for *June*, 1761, is the following remarkable account from the *Isle of Mull*. A gentleman of the name of *Campbell*, being fowling among the rocks, and having mounted a ladder to take some birds out of their holes ; was so surprized, by one of this species spurning a quantity of oyl in his face, that he quitted his hold, fell down, and perished.

by the multitudes of Mallemuckes flying; and that when one of the former are wounded, prodigious multitudes immediately follow its bloody track. He adds, that it is a most gluttonous bird, eating till it is forced to disgorge its food.

II. The SHEAR-WATER.

Avis Diomedea, Antenna. Aldr.	Procellaria Puffinus. Lin. syst.
av. iii. 36.	213.
Manks Puffin. Wil. orn. 333.	Puffinus, le Puffin. Brisson av. vi.
Raii syn. av. 134.	131. tab. 12. fig. 1. is a variety of it.
Shear-water. idem. 133.	Feroensibus Skrabe. Norvegis
Wil. orn. 334.	Skraap, Pullus. Feroensibus Liere.
Patines de oviedo. Raii syn. av.	Brunnich. 119.
191.	Manks Petrel. Br. Zool. 146.
Edw. av. 359.	

THIS species is about the size of the common gull; the bill is an inch and three-quarters long; the nostrils tubular, but not very prominent: the head, and whole upper side of the body, wings, tail, and thighs, are of a sooty blackness; the under side from chin to tail, and inner coverts of the wings, white: the legs weak, and compressed sideways; dusky behind, whitish before. Descr.

These birds are found in the *Calf of Man*: and, as Mr. Ray supposes, in the *Scilly-isles*: they resort to the former in *February*; take a short possession of the rabbit borrows, and then disappear till *April*: they lay one egg; and the young are fit to be taken the beginning of *August*; when great numbers are killed by the person who farms the isle: they are salted and barrelled; and when they are boiled, are eat with

potatoes. During the day they keep at sea, fishing; and towards evening return to their young; whom they feed, by discharging the contents of their stomachs into their mouths; which by that time is turned into oil. They quit the isle the latter end of *August*, or beginning of *September*; and, from accounts lately received from navigators, we have reason to imagine, that like the *storm-finch*, they are dispersed over the whole *Atlantic* ocean.

III. The STORMFINCH.

The Storm-finch. *Clusii exot.*
368.

Wil. orn. 395.

Small Petrel. *Edw. av.* 90.

Borlase's Cornwall. 247. *tab.* 29.

The Gourder. *Smith's hist. Kerry.*
186.

Affilag. *Martin's voy. St. Kilda.*
34.

Sib. hist. Fife. 48.

Procellaria, le Petrel. *Briffon av.*

vi. 140. *tab.* 13. *fig.* 1.

Procellaria pelagica. *Lin. syst.*
212.

Stormwaders vogel. *Faun. Suec.*
sp. 143.

Norvegis Soren Peder. St. Peders
Fugl, Vesten-vinds Are. Son-
den-vinds Fugl, Uveyrs Fugl
nonnullis, Hare. *Feroensibus*
Strunkvit. *Brun.* 117.

Little Petrel. *Br. Zool.* 146.

Descr.

THIS bird is about the size of the house swallow; but the wings are of a much greater length. The whole bird is black, except the coverts of the tail and vent-feathers, which are white: the bill is hooked at the end; the nostrils tubular: the legs slender, and long. It has the same faculty of spouting oil from its bill, as the other species: and Mr. *Brunnich* tells us, that the inhabitants of the *Ferroe isles* make this bird serve the purposes of a candle, by drawing a wick through the mouth and rump, which being lighted,

lighted, the flame is fed by the fat and oil of the body. Except in breeding time it is always at sea; and is seen all over the vast *Atlantic* ocean, at the greatest distance from land: it presages bad weather, and cautions the seamen of the approach of a tempest, by collecting under the stern of the ships: it braves the utmost fury of the storm, sometimes skimming with incredible velocity along the hollows of the waves, sometimes on the summits: *Clusius* makes it the *Camilla* of the sea.

Vel mare per medium fluctu suspensa tument
Ferret iter, celeres nec tingeret æquore plantas.

These birds are the *Cypseli* of *Pliny*, which he places among the *Apodes* of *Aristotle*: not because they wanted feet, but were καὶ πόδα*, or had bad, or useless ones; an attribute he gives to these species, on a supposition they were almost always on the wing. *Hardouin*, a critick quite unskilled in natural history, imagines them to be martins, the *Cypseli* of *Aristotle*†: but a little attention to the text of each of those antient naturalists, is sufficient to evince that they are very different birds; the latter very accurately describes the characters of that species of swallow: while *Pliny* expresses the very manner of life of our *Petrel*.

“Nidificant in scopulis, hæ sunt quæ toto mari cernuntur: nec unquam tam longo naves, tamque continuo cursu recedunt a terra, ut non circumvolitent eas Apodes.” *Lib. x. c. 39.*

* *Arist.* 17.

† *P.* 1067.

Genus XVII. GOOSANDERS.

I. The GOOSANDER.

Mergus cirrhatus (*fæm.*) *Gesner*

av. 134. *Merganser* (*Merrach*)

135.

Aldr. av. iii. 113.

Goosander. Wil. orn. 335.

Dun-diver, or Sparling-fowl. ibid.

Raii syn. av. 134.

Merganser, l'Harle. Brisson av.

vi. 231. *tab.* 22.

Meer-rache. Kram. 343.

Mergus merganser. Lin. syst. 208.

Wrakfogel, Kjorkfogel, Ard,

Skraka. Faun. Suec. sp. 135.

Pekfok. Crantz's Greenl. i. 80.

Islandis Skior-And. Danis Skalle-

fluger. Brunnich. 92. & 93.

Br. Zool. 147.

THESE birds frequent our rivers, and other fresh waters, especially in hard winters; they are great divers, and live on fish. The male weighs four pounds: its length is two feet four inches; the breadth three feet two. The bill is three inches long, narrow, and finely toothed, or serrated: the color of that, and the irides is red. The head is large, and the feathers on the hind part long and loose: the color black, finely glossed with green: the upper part of the neck the same: the lower part, and under side of the body of a fine pale yellow: the upper part of the back, and inner scapulars are black: the lower part of the back, and the tail are ash-colored: the tail consists of eighteen feathers: the greater quill-feathers are black, the lesser white, some of which are edged with black: the coverts at the setting on of the wing are black; the rest white: the legs of a deep orange color.

The

The *dun Diver*, or female, is less than the male: the head, and upper part of the neck are ferruginous; the throat white: the feathers on the hind part are long, and form a pendent crest: the back, the coverts of the wings, and the tail are of a deep ash-color: the greater quill-feathers are black, the lesser white: the breast, and middle of the belly are white, tinged with yellow.

We believe that *Belon** describes this sex under the title of *Bieure oyseau*, and asserts, that it builds its nest on rocks and in trees like the Corvorant.

II. The LESSER DUN DIVER.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Anas Longirostra. <i>Gesner av.</i> | 237. |
| 133. | Braun kopfiger Tilger, Taucher. |
| <i>Aldr. av. iii.</i> 113. | <i>Kram.</i> 343. |
| The Serula. <i>Wil. orn.</i> 336. | <i>Mergus ferrator. Lin. syst.</i> 208. |
| <i>Raii syn. av.</i> 135. | <i>Pracka. Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 136. |
| Lesser toothed Diver. <i>Morton's</i> | <i>Danis Fisk-And. Brunnich</i> 96. |
| <i>Northampt.</i> 429. | <i>Br. Zool.</i> 147. |
| L'Harle hupé. <i>Briffon av.</i> vi. | |

THIS species weighs two pounds: the length is Descr. one foot nine inches; the breadth two feet seven: the bill is three inches long, the lower mandible red; the upper dusky: the irides a purplish red: the head, and upper part of the neck of a deep rust color; the former adorned with a pendent crest: the throat white: the fore part of the neck and the breast are marbled with deep ash-color: the belly is white:

* *Belon av.* 163.

the greater quill-feathers are black; the lesser have their upper halves white: the coverts on the ridge of the wings are ash-color; the next are white; and the lowest tipped with black: the back, scapulars, and tail are ash-colored. Mr. *Briffon* describes this as the female of the red breasted Goosander. *Edw. av.* 95. Mr. *Willoughby* too suspects that its male represents some bird similar to the Goosander: as the former is frequent in the *Baltic* sea *, the species we describe may prove only its female; and, as is sometimes the case with other birds, the female only migrates.

III. The S M E W.

La Piette. *Belon av.* 171.

Mergus rhenanus. *Gesner av.*

131.

Aldr. av. iii. 111.

White Nun. *Wil. orn.* 337.

Lough Diver. 338.

Raii syn. av. 135.

Mergus albellus. *Lin. syst.* 209.

Faun. Suec. sp. 137.

Le petit harle hupè ou le Piette.

Briffon av. vi. 243. tab. 24.

fig. 1 & 2.

Kram. 344.

Cimbris Hviid Side. *Brunnich* 97.

Br. Zool. 148.

Descr.

ITS weight is thirty-four ounces: the length eighteen inches; the breadth twenty-six. The bill is near two inches long, and of a lead color: the head is adorned with a long crest, white above, black beneath: from a little beyond the eye to the bill, is a large oval black spot, glossed with green; the head, neck, and whole under side of the body are of a pure white; on the lower part of the neck are two semi-

* *Brunnich ornith.* 23.

lunar black lines pointing forward : the inner scapulars, the back, the coverts on the ridge of the wing, and the greater quill-feathers are black ; the middle rows of coverts are white ; the next black, tipped with white ; the lesser quill-feathers the same ; the scapulars next the wings white : the tail deep ash-color : the legs a bluish grey.

The female, or *lough diver*, is less than the male : The marks in the wings are the same in both sexes : the back, the scapulars, and the tail are dusky : the head, and hind part of the neck ferruginous : chin, and fore part of the neck white : the breast clouded with grey : the belly white : the legs dusky.

IV. The RED HEADED SMEW.

The Weefel Coot. *Alb. av.* i. L'Harle étoilé. *Briffon av.* vi.
p. 84. *tab.* 88. 252.
Mergus minutus. *Lin. syst.* 209. *Br. Zool.* 148.
Faun. Suec. sp. 138.

THIS bird weighs fifteen ounces : the length is Descr.
 one foot four inches ; the breadth one foot eleven inches : the bill is of a lead color : the head is slightly crested, and of a rust color : from beyond the eyes to the bill is an oval black spot : the cheeks and throat are white : the hind part of the neck is of a deep grey ; the fore part clouded with a lighter : the belly white : the back and tail are of a dusky ash-color : the legs of a pale ash-color : the wings have exactly the same marks and colors with the smew ; and as the spaces between the eyes and bill are
marked

marked with a similar spot in both, if authors did not agree to make the *lough diver* the female of that bird, we should suppose this to be it.

Genus XVIII. DUCKS.

I. The WILD SWAN.

Gesner av. 373.

Wild Swan, Elk, or Hooper.

Wil. orn. 356.

Raii syn. av. 136.

Edw. av. 150.

Le Cygne sauvage. *Briffon av.*

vi. 292. *tab.* 28.

Schwane. *Kram.* 338.

Anas Cygnus ferus. Lin. syst.

194.

Swan. *Faun. Suec. sp.* 107.

Danis Vild Svane. Cimbris Sna-

bel-Svane. Brunnich 44.

Br. Zool. 149. *add. plates.*

THE wild swan frequents our coasts in hard winters in large flocks, but as far as we can inform ourselves does not breed in *Great-Britain*. *Martin* * acquaints us, that swans come in *October* in great numbers to *Lingey*, one of the *western isles*; and continue there till *March*, when they retire more northward to breed. These, as well as most other water fowl, prefer for that purpose those places that are least frequented by mankind: accordingly we find that the lakes and forests of the distant *Lapland* are filled during summer with myriads of water fowl, and there swans, geese, the duck tribe, goosanders, divers, &c. pass that season; but in autumn return to us, and to other more hospitable shores †.

* *Descr. west. isles*, 71.

† *Flora Lapponica*, 273. *Oeuvres de M. de Maupertuis. tom.* 3.

This species is less than the tame swan. The lower part of the bill is black; the base of it and the space between that and the eyes is covered with a naked yellow skin; the eyelids are bare and yellow: the whole plumage in old birds is of a pure white; the down is very soft and thick: the legs dusky. The cry of this kind is very loud, and may be heard at a great distance, from which it is sometimes called the Hooper.

II. The TAME SWAN.

Le Cygne. *Belon av.* 151.
Gesner av. 371.
 Cygno, Cisano. *Aldr. av.* iii. 1.
Wil. orn. 355.
Raii syn. av. 136.
Edw. av. 150.
Plott's hist. Staff. 228.

Le Cygne. *Briffon av.* vi. 288.
 Anas Cygnus mansuetus. *Lin. syst.* 194.
 Swan. *Faun. Suec. sp.* 107.
 Danis Tam Svane. *Brunnich* 44.
Br. Zool. 149. add. plates.

THIS is the largest of the *British* birds; it is distinguished externally from the wild swan; first by its size, being much larger: secondly by the bill, which in this is red, and the tip and sides black, and the skin between the eyes and bill is of the same color: over the base of the upper mandible projects a black callous knob: the whole plumage in old birds is white; in young ones ash-colored; the legs dusky: but Dr. *Plott* mentions a variety found on the *Trent*

p. 141, 175. according to the observation of that illustrious writer, the *Lapland* lakes are filled with the *larvæ* of the Knat. (*culex pipiens. Lin. syst.* 602.) or some other insect, that deposits its eggs in the water; which being an agreeable food to water fowl, is another cause of their resort to those deserts.

near

near *Rugely*, with red legs. The swan lays seven or eight eggs, and is near two months in hatching: it feeds on water plants, insects and shells. No bird perhaps makes so inelegant a figure out of the water, or has the command of such beautiful attitudes in that element as the swan: almost every poet has taken notice of it, but none with that justice of description, or in so picturesque a manner, as our *Milton*.

The swan with arched neck
Between her white wings mantling, proudly rows
Her state with oary feet. *Par. Lost*, b. vii.

But we cannot help thinking he had here an eye to that beautiful passage in *Silius Italicus* on the same subject, though the *English* poet has greatly improved on it.

Haud secus *Eridani* stagnis, ripâve *Caystri*
Innatat albus olor, pronoque immobile corpus
Dat fluvio, et pedibus tacitas eremigat undas. *Lib.* 14.

In former times it was served up at every great feast, when the elegance of the table was measured by the size and quantity of the good cheer. Cygnets are to this day fattened at *Norwich* about *Christmas*, and are sold for a guinea a piece.

Swans were formerly held in such great esteem in *England*, that by an act of *Edward IV.* c. 6. "no one that possessed a freehold of less clear yearly value than five marks, was permitted to keep any, other than the son of our sovereign lord the king." And by the eleventh of *Henry VII.* c. 17. the punishment for taking their

their eggs was imprisonment for a year and a day, and a fine at the king's will. Though at present they are not so highly valued as a delicacy, yet great numbers are preserved for their beauty; we see multitudes on the *Thames* and *Trent*, but no where greater numbers than on the salt water inlet of the sea, near *Abbotsbury* in *Dorsetshire*.

These birds were by the ancients consecrated to *Apollo* and the *Muses*;

— ενθα κυκνος μελωδος

Μουσας δεραπνευει. Eurip. *Iphig. in Taur.* lin. 1104.

And *Callimachus* in his hymn upon the island of *Delos* is still more particular,

—Κυκνοι δε θεου μελποντες αοιδος

Μηονιον πακτωλὸν ἐκυκλώσαντο λιποντες

Εβδομάκις περι Δῆλόν. ἐπήεισαν δὲ λοχείη

Μουσᾶων ὄρνιθες, αοιδόταται πετεηνων.

Ενθεν ο παις τοσσᾶςδε λύρη ενεδήσατο χορδας

Υστερον, ὅσσᾶκι κυκνοι ἐπ' ὠδίνεσσιν ᾄεισαν:

Ουδοον εκ' ετ' αεισαν, ὃ δ' ἐκδορεν.

—when from *Pactolus'* golden banks

Apollo's tuneful songsters, snowy swans

Steering their flight, seven times their circling course

Wheel round the island, caroling mean time

Soft melody, the favourites of the Nine,

Thus ushering to birth with dulcet sounds

The God of harmony, and hence sev'n strings

Hereafter to his golden lyre he gave

For ere the eighth soft concert was begun

He sprung to birth.

Dod's Callimachus, p. 115.

Upon this idea of their being peculiarly consecrated to *Apollo* and the *Muses*, (the deities of harmony) seems

to have been ingrafted, the notion the antients had of swans being endowed with a musical voice. Tho' this might be one reason for the fable; yet, to us there appears another still stronger, which arose from the *Pythagorean* doctrine of the transmigration of the soul into the bodies of animals; from the belief, that the body of the swan was allotted for the mansion of departed poets. Thus *Plato* makes his prophet say, ἰδεῖν μὲν γὰρ ψυχὴν ἐφ' ἣν ποτὲ Ὀρφεὺς γενομένην κυκνὸς βίον αἰσχυμένην*. “I saw the soul of *Orpheus* prefer the life of a swan”.

After the antients had thus furnished these birds with such agreeable inmates, it is not to be doubted but they would attribute to them the same powers of harmony, that the poets possessed, previous to their transmigration: but the vulgar not distinguishing between the sweetness of numbers, and that of voice, ignorantly believed that to be real, which philosophers and poets only meant metaphorically.

In time a swan became a common trope for a Bard; *Horace* calls *Pindar Dircaum Cygnum*, and in one ode even supposes himself changed into a swan; *Virgil* speaks of his poetical brethren in the same manner,

Vare, tuum nomen

Cantantes sublime ferent ad sydera cygni.

Eclog. ix.

when he speaks of them figuratively, he ascribes to them melody, or the power of musick; but when he talks of them as birds, he lays aside fiction, and like a true naturalist gives them their real note,

Dant sonitum rauci per stagna loquacia cygni. *Æneid. lib. xi.*

* *De Republ. lib. x. sub fine.*

Thus

Thus he, as well as *Pliny**, in fact, gave no credit to the musick of swans. *Aristotle* speaks of it only by hearsay †, but, when once an error is started, it is not surprizing that it is adopted, especially by poets, geniuses of all others of the most unbounded imaginations. For this reason poets were said to animate swans, from the notion that they flew higher than any other birds, and *Hesiod* distinguishes them by the epithet of κυκνοι αεσιπτοται ‡, “the lofty flying swans”; Thus *Horace* whilst he humbly compares himself to a bee, contenting itself with the creeping thyme, sends his *Dircæum Cygnum* into the clouds,

Multa *Dircæum* levat aura cygnum,
Tendit, *Antoni*, quoties in altos
Nubium tractus.

Ode. II. lib. 4.

but when he finds himself struck with a true poetical spirit, he at once assumes the form of this favourite bird,

Non usitata nec tenui feror
Penna, biformis per liquidum æthera
Vates :

— et album mutor in alitem.

Ode. 20. lib. 2.

And doubtless he was on the wing in his first ode,

Sublimi feriam sydera vertice.

Besides these opinions the antients held another still more singular, imagining that the swan foretold its own end: to explain this we must consider the two-

* Lib. x. c. 33.

† *Hist. an.* 1045.

‡ *Scut. Herc.* l. 316.

fold character of the poet, *Vates* and *Poeta*, which the fable of the transmigration continue to the bird, or they might be supposed to derive that faculty from *Apollo* * their patron deity, the god of prophecy and divination.

As to their being supposed to sing more sweetly at the approach of death, the cause is beautifully explained by *Plato*, who attributes that unusual melody, to the same sort of *Ecstasy* that good men are sometimes said to enjoy at that awful hour, foreseeing the joys that are preparing for them on putting off mortality, *Μανθικοί τε εἰσι, καὶ προειδότες τὰ ἐν Ἀδῷ ἀγαθὰ, ἀδῶσι τε, καὶ τέρπονται ἐκείνην τὴν ἡμέραν διαφερόντως ἢ ἐν τῷ προδεν χρόνῳ* †.

This notion tho' accounted for by *Plato*, seems to have been a popular one long before his time, for *Æschylus* alludes to it in his *Agamemnon*; *Clytemnestra* speaking of *Cassandra*, says,

—— ἡ δὲ τοι, κυκνὸς δίκην,
Τὸν υἱάτοιν μέλψασα θανάσιμον γοόν,
Κεῖται.

* *Platonis Phædo*, ed. Cantab. 1683. p. 124.

† Ibid. “ They become prophetic, and foreseeing the happiness which they shall enjoy in another state, are in greater ecstasy than they have before experienced.”

‡ —— She like the Swan
Expiring, dies in melody.

III. The G O O S E.

L'Oye privée, L'Oye Sauvage.	<i>Peria wypuschiat. Russ. N. Com.</i>
<i>Belon av. 156. 158.</i>	<i>Petr. iv. 418.</i>
<i>Gesner av. 142. 158.</i>	Wild ganss, Einheimische ganss.
<i>Aldr. av. iii. 42. 67.</i>	<i>Kram. 338.</i>
Tame Goose, common wild	<i>Anas anser mansuetus — ferus.</i>
Goose. <i>Wil. orn. 358. sp. 1, 2.</i>	<i>Lin. syst. 197.</i>
<i>Raii syn. av. 136. sp. 3, 4.</i>	Gas.—will gas. <i>Faun. Suec. sp.</i>
L'Oye domestique, l'Oye sauvage.	<i>114.</i>
<i>Briffon av. vi. 262, 265.</i>	<i>Crantz's Greenl. i. 80.</i>
<i>Oca domestica, Salvatica, Balet-</i>	<i>Danis Tam Gaas. Brunnich 55.</i>
<i>ta. Zinan. 104.</i>	<i>Br. Zool. 150.</i>

THE goose, in its wild state always retains the same marks: the whole upper part is ash-colored, or brown a little clouded: the breast and belly are of a dirty white: the vent feathers, and those incumbent on the tail are of a pure white: the quill feathers and the tail are dusky; the latter edged with white: the bill is very narrow; the base and nail black: the middle red; the legs a saffron color, the claws black. In the tame state, geese as well as other domestic animals vary almost infinitely in their marks; but these birds ever retain the white ring round their tail, a sign of their origin from the wild kind: they are said to be very long lived. Mr. Willoughby gives an example of one that attained eighty years. The wild species breed, as we imagine, in the retired parts of the north of *Europe*: in the beginning of winter they light and feed on corn grounds: they fly a great heighth, and preserve great regularity in their motion, sometimes forming a strait line; at others assuming the shape of a wedge, which facilitates their progress;

for they cut the air the readier in that form than if they flew pelmell. Besides this species, *Doëtor Lister* * mentions three others: 1st. the *marsh-goose*, or *grey leg*; which appears to be no other than our wild goose. 2d. the *Small spanish goose*, which in color resembles the common goose, but is no larger than the *brent* goose. 3d. the *great black goose*, or *whilk*.

Great numbers of tame geese are kept in the fens in *Lincolnshire*, and are plucked about the neck, breast and back, once if not twice a year, the feathers are a considerable article of commerce, but those from the *Somersetshire* geese are most esteemed by the trade; as those from *Ireland* are reckoned the worst.

It will not here be foreign to the subject to give some account of the feathers that other birds and other countries supply our *Island* with, which was communicated to us by an intelligent person in the feather trade.

Eider down is imported from *Denmark*, the ducks that supply it being inhabitants of *Hudson's-bay*, *Greenland*, *Iceland* and *Norway*; our own islands west of *Scotland* breed numbers of these birds, and might turn out a profitable branch of trade to the poor inhabitants. *Hudson's-bay* also furnishes a very fine feather supposed to be of the goose kind.

The down of the swan is brought from *Dantzick*. The same place also sends us great quantity of the feathers of the cock and hen. The *London* poulterers sell a great quantity of the feathers of those birds, and of ducks and turkies; those of ducks being a weaker

* *Raii syn. av.* 138.

feather are inferior to those of the goose; turkey's feathers are the worst of any.

The best method of curing feathers is to lay them in a room in an exposure to the sun, and when dried to put them in bags, and beat them well with poles to get the dirt off.

We have often been surprized that no experiments had been made on the feathers of the *Auk* tribe, as such numbers resort to our rocks annually, and promise from the appearance of their plumage to furnish a warm and soft feather; but we have lately been informed that some unsuccessful trials have been made at *Glasgow*; a gentleman who had made a voyage to the western Isles and brought some of the feathers home with a laudable design of promoting the trade of our own country, attempted to render them fit for use, first by baking, then by boiling them, but their stench was so offensive that the *Glasgow* people could not be prevailed on to leave off their correspondence with *Dantzick*. The disagreeable smell of these feathers must be owing to the quantity of oil that all water fowls use from the glandules of their rump to preserve and smooth their feathers, and as sea birds must expend more of this uncti^on than other water fowl, being almost perpetually on that element, and as their food is entirely fish, that oil must receive a great rankness, and communicate it to the plumage, so as to render it absolutely unfit for use.

The WHITE FRONTED WILD GOOSE.

The laughing Goose. *Edw. av.* 153. L'Oye sauvage du nord. *Briffon av. vi.* 269.
Anas erythropus (fæm.) Lin. Polnische Ganss. *Kram.* 339.
syst. 197. *Danis Vild Gaas. Brunnich.* 53.
Fiællgas. Faun. Suec. sp. 116. *Br. Zool.* 150.

THIS is found very frequently in the winter, in the marshes of *Cheshire*: and in all the northern world as far as *Hudson's-bay*: The weight is about five pounds: the length twenty-eight inches; the breadth four feet and a half: the bill is of a reddish yellow, and much thicker and larger than that of the common wild goose: the forehead white: the crown of the head is of a deep cinereous brown: the upper part of the breast of a light ash-color, clouded with a deeper: the belly is white, marked with large black spots: the coverts of the wings are grey, edged with brown: the feathers above and below the tail white, the tail black, edged with white: the legs orange color, the claw whitish, or pale flesh color. From the similitude the bill of this bears to the common tame goose, and from the whiteness of the forehead, which often appears on that of tame geese with brown heads, we believe that they derive their origin from this species, not the common wild goose. *Linnaeus* makes this the female of the *Bernacle*, than which scarce any two birds of this genus can differ more.

IV. The BERNACLE.

- | | |
|---|--|
| L'Oye nonnette ou Cravant. | <i>Gerard's Herbal.</i> 1587. |
| <i>Belon av.</i> 158. | <i>La Bernache. Brisson av.</i> vi. 300. |
| Brenta, vel Bernicla. <i>Gesner av.</i> | <i>Anas Erythropus (mas,) Lin.</i> |
| 109, 110. | <i>sist.</i> 197. |
| <i>Aldr. av.</i> iii. 73. | <i>Fiællgas. Faun. Suec. sp.</i> 116. |
| Bernacle, or Clakis. <i>Wil. orn.</i> | <i>Anser brendinus. Caii opusc.</i> 87. |
| <i>Raii syn. av.</i> 137. | <i>Crantz's Greenl.</i> i. 80. |
| <i>Sibb. hist. Scot.</i> 21. | <i>Br. Zool.</i> 150. |

THIS bird weighs about five pounds; the length Descr.
 is two feet one inch; the breadth four feet five
 inches; the bill is black, and only one inch three-
 eighths long; the head is small; the forehead and
 cheeks white; from the bill to the eyes is a black line;
 the hind part of the head, the whole neck, and upper
 part of the breast and back are of a deep black; the
 whole under side of the body, and coverts of the tail
 are white; the back, scapulars and coverts of the
 wings, are beautifully barred with grey, black, and
 white; the tail is black; the legs of the same color,
 and small.

These birds appear in vast flocks during winter, on
 the north west coasts of this kingdom: are very shy
 and wild; but on being taken, grow as familiar as
 our tame geese in a few days; in *February* they quit
 our shores, and retire as far as *Lapland, Greenland* and
 even *Spitsbergen* to breed*.

These are the birds that about two hundred years
 ago were beleived to be generated out of wood, or

* *Amæn. Acad.* iv. 585. *Barent's voy.* 19.

rather a species of shell that is often found sticking to the bottoms of ships, or fragments of them; and were called *Tree-geese* *. These were also thought by some writers to have been the *Chenalopeces* of *Pliny*: they should have said *Chenerotes*; for those were the birds that naturalists said were found in *Britain*; but as he has scarce left us any description of them, it is impossible to determine what species he intended †

V. The BRENT GOOSE.

Les Canes de Mer. *Belon av.* 166.

Aldr. av. iii. 73.

Wil. orn. 360.

Raii syn. av. 137.

Bernacle. *Nat. hist. Ireland.* 192.

Brenta, le Cravant. *Briffon av.* vi.

304. tab. 31.

Anas Bernicla. Lin. syst. 198.

Belgis Rotgans, Calmariensibus

Prutgas. Faun. Suec. sp. 115.

Cimbris Ray-v Rad-Gaas. Nor-

vegis Raat-v. Raatne-Gaas.

item Goul-v. Gagl. Brunnich.

52.

Br. Zool. 151.

THIS is inferior in size to the former: the bill is one inch and an half long; the color of that, the head, neck, and upper part of the breast is black; on each side the slenderest part of the neck is a white spot; the lower part of the breast, the scapulars, and coverts of the wings are ash-colored, clouded with a deeper shade; the feathers above and below the tail are white; the tail and quill feathers black; the legs black.

* The shell here meant is the *lepas anatifera*. *Lin. syst.* 668. *Argenville Conch.* tab. 7. the animal that inhabites it is furnished with a feathered beard; which, in a credulous age, was believed to be part of the young bird.

† *Anserini generis sunt Chenalopeces: et quibus lautiores epulas non novit Britannia Chenerotes, fere anseres minores.* *Lib. x. c.* 22.

These birds frequent our coasts in the winter: in *Ireland* they are called *Bernacles*, and appear in great quantities in *August*, and leave it in *March*. They feed on a sort of long grass growing in the water; preferring the root and some part above it, which they dive for, bite off and leave the upper part to drive on shore. They abound near *Londonderry*, *Belfast*, and *Wexford*; and are taken in flight time in nets placed a-crofs the rivers; and are much esteemed for their delicacy. The *Rat* or *Roadgoose*, of Mr. *Willoughby* *, agrees in so many respects with this kind, that we suspect it only to be a young bird not come to full feathers: the only difference consisting in the feathers next the bill, and on the throat and breast being brown. We have the greater reason to imagine it to be so as Mr. *Brunnich* informs us that the *Danish* and *Norwegian* names for this bird are *Radgaas* and *Raatgaas*, which agree with those given it by Mr. *Willoughby*. Mr. *Willoughby*, Mr. *Ray*, and M. *Briffon* very properly describe the *Bernacle* and *Brent* as different species, but *Linnaeus* makes these synonymous, and describes the true *Bernacle* as the female of the white fronted wild goose. vide *Faun. suec.* 116.

* Page 361.

VI. The EIDER DUCK.

- Wormius's Eider, or soft feathered Duck, the Cuthbert Duck.*
Wil. orn 362.
Raii syn. av. 141.
Great black and white Duck.
Edw. av. 98.
Eider anas. Sib. Scot. 21.
The Colk. Martin's description of the western isles. 25.
Anser lanuginosus, l'Oye a duvet.
Briffon av. vi. 294. tab. 29.
- fig. 30.*
Anas mollissima. Lin. syst. 198.
Ada, Eider, Gudunge, Æra.
Faun. Suec. sp. 117.
Pontop. hist. Norway. ii. 70.
Hor. hist. Icel. 65.
Egede's Hist. Greenland. 92.
Mittek. Crantz's Greenl. i. 81.
Edder. Brunnich. 57. 66. Monogr. tab. 1. 2.
Br. Zool. 152. add. plates.

THIS useful species is found in the *western isles* of *Scotland*, particularly on *Collinsa*, *Barra*, *Rona*, and *Heisker*, and on the *Farn isles**; but in greater numbers in *Norway*, *Iceland*, and *Greenland*: from whence a vast quantity of the down, known by the name of *Eider* or *Edder*, which these birds furnish is annually imported: its remarkably light, elastic, and warm qualities, make it highly esteemed as a stuffing for coverlets, by such whom age or infirmities render unable to support the weight of common blankets. This down is produced from the breast of the bird in the breeding season. It lays its eggs† among the stones or plants, near the shore: and prepares a soft bed for them, by plucking the down from its own breast; the natives watch the opportunity, and take away both eggs and nest: the duck lays again, and repeats the plucking of its breast; if she

* *Ray's itin. 183.*

† It lays five or six eggs as large as those of a goose, and of a pale olive green color.

is robbed after that, she will still lay ; but the drakes must supply the down, as her stock is now exhausted ; but if the eggs are taken a third time, she wholly deserts the place.

This kind is double the size of the common duck : Descr.
its bill is black ; the feathers of the forehead and cheeks advance far into the base, so as to form two very sharp angles : the forehead is of a full velvet black : from the bill to the hind part of the head is a broad black bar, passing a-cross the eyes on each side : on the hind part of the neck, just beneath the ends of these bars, is a broad pea-green mark, that looks like a stain : the crown of the head, the cheeks, the neck, back, scapulars and coverts of the wings are white ; the lower part of the breast, the belly, tail, and quill feathers are black, the legs are green : the female is of a reddish brown, barred transversely with black ; but the head and upper part of the neck are marked with dusky streaks pointing downward ; the primary feathers are black, the greater or last row of coverts of the wings, and the lesser row of quill feathers tipped with white : the tail is dusky ; the belly of a deep brown marked obscurely with black.

VII. The VELVET DUCK.

Anas nigra, rostro nigro rubro
et luteo. *Aldr. av.* iii. 97.

The black Duck. *Wil. orn.* 363.

Raii syn. av. 141.

Dale's hist. Harwich. 405.

Turpan. *N. Com. Petr.* iv. 420.

La grande Macreuse. *Briffon av.*
vi. 423.

Anas fusca. *Lin. syst.* 190.

Faun. Suec. sp. 109.

Gunner. tab. v.

Incolis Christiansoe Sværte. *Nor-*

vegis Soe-Orre Hav-Orre v.

Sav-Orre, quibusdam Sorte.

Brunnich. 48.

Br. Zool. 152. add. plates.

Descr.

TH E male of this species, according to Mr. *Willoughby*, (for we have seen only the female) is larger than the tame duck. The bill is broad and short, yellow on the sides, black in the middle, and the hook red: the head, and part of the neck is black tinged with green: behind each ear is a white spot; and in each wing is a white feather; all the rest of the the plumage is of a fine black, and of the soft and delicate appearance of velvet: the legs and feet are red; the webs black: the female is entirely of a deep brown color; the marks behind each ear and on the wings excepted: the bill is of the same colors with that of the male; but wants the protuberance at the base of it, which *Linnaeus* gives the male*.

* *Faun. Suec. last edit.* 39.

VIII. The SCOTER.

Black Diver, or Scoter. *Wil. orn.* 366. *La Macreuse. Brisson av. vi.* 420.
Raii syn. av. 141. *tab.* 38. *fig.* 2.
La Macreuse, Ray's Letters 161. *Anas nigra. Lin. syst.* 196.
Dale's hist. Harwich. 405. *Faun. Suec. sp.* 110.
Br. Zool. 153.

THIS species weighs two pounds nine ounces: *Descr.*
the length is twenty-two inches; the breadth
thirty-four: the middle of the bill is of a fine yellow,
the rest is black: both male and female want the
hook at the end; but on the base of the bill of the
former is a large knob, divided by a fissure in the
middle. The tail consists of sixteen sharp pointed
feathers, of which the middle are the longest. The
color of the whole plumage is black, that of the head
and neck glossed over with purple: the legs are black.
This bird is allowed in the *Romish church* to be eaten
in *Lent*, and is the *macreuse* of the *French*. It is a
great diver, said to live almost constantly at sea, and
to be taken in nets placed under water.

IX. The TUFTED DUCK.

Un petit Plongeon espece de
Canard. *Belon av.* 175.

Straufs endt. *Gesner av.* 107.

Querquedula Cristata. Aldr. av.
iii. 91.

Wil. orn. 365.

Raii syn. av. 142.

Le petit Morillon. *Briffon av.* vi.

411. *tab.* 27. *fig.* 1.

Kram. 341.

Anas fuligula. Lin. syst. 207.

Wigge. Faun. Suec. sp. 132.

Norvegis Troid-And. Brunnich.
90.

Br. Zool. 153.

Descr. **T**HIS scarcely weighs two pounds: the length is fifteen inches and a half: the bill is of a bluish grey, the hook black. The head is adorned with a thick, but short pendent crest. The belly, and under coverts of the wings are of a pure white: the middle quill feathers are white, tipped with black; the rest of the plumage is black, varied about the head with purple: the tail is very short, and consists of fourteen feathers: the legs of a bluish grey; the webs black. The female wants the crest. When young this sex is of a deep brown; and the sides of the head next the bill of a pale yellow, but it preserves the other marks of the old duck; in this state it has been described in the *Ornith. boreal.* 91, under the title of *anas latirostra*.

X. The SCAUP DUCK.

Bollenten. *Gesner av.* 120.
 Scaup Duck. *Wil. orn.* 365.
Raii syn. av. 142.
Anas marila. Lin. syst. 196.
Faun. Suec. sp. 111.

Le petit Morillon rayé. *Briffon*
av. vi. 416.
Danis Polsk Edelmand. Brunnich.
50, 51.
Br. Zool. 153. *add. plates.*

THIS we described from some stuf skins very well Descri.
 preserved*. It seemed less than the common
 duck. The bill was broad, flat, and of a greyish
 blue color: the head and neck black glossed with
 green: the breast black: the back, the coverts of
 the wings, and the scapulars finely marked with nu-
 merous narrow transverse bars of black and grey: the
 greater quill feathers are dusky: the lesser white, tipped
 with black: the belly is white: the tail and feathers,
 both above and below are black; the thighs barred
 with dusky and white strokes: the legs dusky.

Willoughby acquaints us, that these birds take their
 name from feeding on *scaup*, or broken shell fish:
 they differ infinitely in colors; so that in a flock
 of forty or fifty there are not two alike.

* When this happens we have recourse to Mr. *Willoughby* for the
 weight and measurements, whenever he hath noted them.

XI. The GOLDEN EYE.

Glangula. *Gesner av.* 119.*Aldr. av.* iii 94.*Wil. orn.* 368.*Raii syn. av.* 142.Le Garrot. *Briffon av.* vi. 416.*tab.* 37. *fig.* 2.Eifs Ente. *Kram.* 341.*Anas clangula. Lin. syst.* 201.Knippa, Dopping. *Faun. Suec. sp.*

122.

Norvegis Ring-Oye, Hviin-And

v. Quiin-And. Lund-And

incolis Christiansoe, Bruus-Kopv. Blanke-Kniv. *Br.* 70, 71.*Br. Zool.* 154. *add. plates.*

Descr.

THIS species weighs two pounds : the length is nineteen inches ; the breadth thirty one. The bill is black, short, and broad at the base : the head is large, of a deep black glossed with green : at each corner of the mouth is a large white spot : for which reason the *Italians* call it *Quatt'occhii* or four eyes : the irides are of a bright yellow : the upper part of the neck is of the same color with that of the head : the breast and whole under side of the body are white ; the scapulars black and white : the back, tail, and the coverts on the ridge of the wings, black : the fourteen first quill feathers, and the four last are black ; the seven middlemost white, as are the coverts immediately above them : the legs of an orange color. The head of the female * is of a deep brown, tinged with red : the neck grey : breast and belly white : coverts and scapulars dusky and ash-colored : middle quill feathers white ; the others together with the tail black ; the legs dusky. These birds frequent fresh water, as well as the sea ; being found on the *Shropshire* meres during winter.

* The smaller red headed duck. *Wil. orn.* 369. *Raii syn. av.* 143.

XII. The SHIELDRAKE.

La Tadorne. *Belon av.* 172.

tab. 33. fig. 2.

Anas maritima. *Gesner av.* 803,
804.

Pl. enl. 53.

Vulpanfer Tadorne. *Aldr. av.*
iii. 71. 97.Bergander *Turneri*. *Chenalopex*
Plinii.Shieldrake, or burrough Duck.
Wil. orn. 363.*Danis* Brand-Gaas, Grav-Gaas.*Raii syn. av.* 140.*Norvegis* Ring-Gaas, Fager-Anas tadorna. *Lin. syst.* 195.

Gaas, Ur-Gaas, Rodbelte.

Jugas. *Faun. Suec. sp.* 113.*Feroenfibus* Hav-Simmer. *Islan-*La Tadorne. *Briffon av. vi.* 344.*dis* Avekong. *Br.* 47.*Br. Zool.* 154.

THE male of this elegant species weighs two Descr.
pounds ten ounces; the length is two feet;
the breadth three and a half. The bill is of a bright
red, and at the base swells into a knob, which is most
conspicuous in the spring; the head and upper part
of the neck is of a fine blackish green; the lower
part of the neck white; the breast, and upper part
of the back is surrounded with a broad band of bright
orange bay; the coverts of the wings, and the mid-
dle of the back are white; the nearest scapulars black,
the others white; the greater quill feathers are black;
the exterior webs of the next are a fine green, and
those of the three succeeding orange; the coverts of
the tail are white; the tail itself of the same color,
and except the two outmost feathers tipped with black;
the belly white, divided lengthways by a black line;
the legs of a pale flesh color.

These birds inhabit the sea coasts, and breed in
rabbit holes. When a person attempts to take their
young, the old birds shew great address in diverting

his attention from the brood ; they will fly along the ground as if wounded, till the former are got into a place of security and then return and collect them together. From this instinctive cunning, *Turner* imagines them to be the *chenalopex*, or fox-goose of the antients. They lay fifteen or sixteen eggs, white, and of a roundish shape. In winter they collect in great flocks. Their flesh is very rank and bad.

XIII. The MALLARD.

Les Canards et les Canes. *Belon*
av. 160.

Anas fera torquata minor. *Anas*
domestica. *Gesner av.* 113,
96.

Aldr. av. iii. 83, 85.

Common wild Duck and Mal-
lard. Common tame Duck.
Wil. orn. 371, 380.

Raii syn. av. 145, 150.

Le Canard domestique, le Canard
sauvage. *Brissón av.* vi. 308,
318.

Einheimische ent. Stork ent.

Kram. 341.

Anitra, Anitra salvatica, Cifone.
Zinan. 105. 106.

Anas boschas. *Anas domestica.*
Lin. syst. 205.

Gras-and, Blanacke. *Faun. Suec.*
sp. 131.

Fera, *Norvegis* Blaaehals v. Græs-
And, aliis Stok-And. *Danis*
Vild-And. *Brunnich.* 87.

Domestica *Danis* Tam-And. *ibid.*
88.

Br. Zool. 155.

Descr.

THE mallard usually weighs two pounds and an half : the length is twenty-three inches ; the breadth thirty-five : the bill is of a yellowish green : the head and neck are of a deep and shining green : more than half round the lower part of the neck is an incomplete circle of white : the upper part of the breast is of a purplish red ; and the beginning of the back of the same color : the breast and belly of a pale grey, marked with transverse speckled lines of a dusky hue : the scapulars white, elegantly barred with

with brown : the spot on the wing is of a rich purple : the tail consists of twenty-four feathers. What distinguishes the male of this species from all others are the four middle feathers, which are black and strongly curled upwards ; but the females want this mark. Their plumage is of a pale reddish brown, spotted with black. The legs are of a saffron color.

The common tame species of ducks take their origin from these, and may be traced to it by unerring characters. The drakes, howsoever they vary in colors, always retain the curled feathers of the tail : and both sexes the form of the bill of the wild kind. Nature sports in the colors of all domestic animals ; and for a wise and useful end ; that mankind may the more readily distinguish and clame their respective property. Wild ducks pair in the spring, and breed in all marshy grounds, and lay from ten to sixteen eggs. They abound in *Lincolnshire*, the great magazine of wild fowl in this kingdom ; where prodigious numbers are taken annually in the decoys.

A decoy is generally made where there is a large pond surrounded with wood, and beyond that a marshy and uncultivated country : if the piece of water is not thus surrounded, it will be attended with the noise and other accidents, which may be expected to fright the wild fowl from a quiet haunt, where they mean to sleep (during the day-time) in security.

If these noises or disturbances are wilful, it hath been held, that an action will lye against the disturber.

As soon as the evening sets in, the decoy *rises* (as they term it) and the wild fowl feed during the night. If the evening is still, the noise of their wings, during their flight, is heard at a very great distance, and is a pleasing, though rather melancholy sound. This *rising* of the decoy in the evening, is in *Somersetshire* called *rodding*.

The decoy ducks are fed with hempseed, which is flung over the skreens in small quantities, to bring them forwards into the pipes, and to allure the wild fowl to follow, as this seed is so light as to float.

There are several *pipes* (as they are called) which lead up a narrow ditch, that closes at last with a funnel net. Over these pipes (which grow narrower from the first entrance) is a continued arch of netting, suspended on hoops. It is necessary to have a pipe or ditch for almost every wind that can blow, as upon this circumstance it depends which pipe the wild fowl will take to ; and the decoy-man always keeps on the leeward side of the ducks, to prevent his effluvia reaching their sagacious nostrils. All along each pipe, at certain intervals, are placed skreens made of reeds, which are so situated, that it is impossible the wild fowl should see the decoy-man, before they have passed on towards the end of the pipe, where the purse-net is placed. The inducement to the wild fowl to go up one of these pipes is, because the decoy-ducks, trained to this, lead the way, either after hearing the whistle of the decoy-man, or enticed by the hempseed, the latter will dive under water, whilst the wild fowl fly on, and are taken in the purse.

It often happens, however, that the wild fowl are in such a state of sleepiness and dozing, that they will not follow the decoy-ducks. Use is then generally made of a dog, who is taught his lesson: he passes backwards and forwards between the reed skreens (in which are little holes, both for the decoy-man to see, and for the little dog to pass through) this attracts the eye of the wild fowl, who not chusing to be interrupted, advance towards this small and contemptible animal, that they may drive him away. The dog, all this time, by direction of the decoy-man, plays among the skreens of reeds, nearer and nearer to the purse net; till at last, perhaps, the decoy-man appears behind a skreen, and the wild fowl not daring to pass by him in return, nor being able to escape upwards on account of the net-covering, rush on into the purse-net. Sometimes the dog will not attract their attention, if a red handkerchief, or something very singular, is not put about him.

The general season for catching fowl in decoys, is from the latter end of *October* till *February*; the taking of them earlier is prohibited by an act 10 *George II.* c. 32. which forbids it from *June 1*, to *October 1*, under the penalty of five shillings for each bird destroyed within that space.

The *Lincolnshire* decoys are commoly set at a certain annual rent, from five pounds to twenty pounds a year: and we have heard of one in *Somersetshire* that pays thirty. The former, contribute principally to supply the markets of *London*. Amazing numbers of ducks, wigeons, and teal are taken: by an account sent us of the number caught the winter be-

fore the last, in only ten decoys, in the neighborhood of *Wainfleet*, it appeared to amount to thirty-one thousand two hundred, in which is included several other species of ducks; it is also to be observed, that in the above particular, wigeon and teal are reckoned but as one, and consequently sell but at half the price of the ducks. This quantity makes them so cheap on the spot, that we have been assured several decoymen would be glad to contract for years to deliver their ducks at *Boston* for ten-pence the couple. The account of the numbers here mentioned, relates only to those that were sent to the *Capital*.

XIV. The SHOVELER.

Anas latirostra (ein Breitschnabel.) *Gesner av.* 120.

Aldr. av. iii. 94.

Wil. orn. 370.

Raii syn. av. 143.

Phasianus marinus. *Charlton ex.* 105.

Blue-wing Shoveler (*fœm.*) *Cat.* *Car.* i. 96.

Le Souchet. Brisson av. vi. 329. *tab.* 32. *fig.* 1.

Schaufl-ente, Loffl-ente. *Kram.* 342.

Anas clypeata. *Lin. syst.* 200.

Faun. Suec. sp. 119.

Kertlutock *. *Krantz's Greenl.* i. 80.

Danis Krop-And. Norvegis Stok-

And. Cimbris Leffel-And.

Brunnich. 67. 68.

Br. Zool. 155.

Descr. **T**HIS weighs twenty-two ounces: its length twenty-one inches. The bill is black, three inches long, spreads near the end to a great breadth; is furnished with a small hook, and the edges of each mandible are pectinated, or supplied with thin laminæ, that lock into each other when the mouth is closed.

* *i. e.* Broad bill.

The

Class II. RED BREASTED SHOVELER. 467

The irides are of a bright yellow : the head and upper part of the neck of a blackish green : the lower part of the neck, the breast, and the scapulars are white : the back brown : the coverts of the wings of a fine sky blue ; those next the quill-feathers tipped with white : the greater quill-feathers are dusky ; the exterior webs of those in the middle, are of a glossy green. The tail consists of fourteen feathers ; the outmost are white ; those in the middle black, edged with white : the belly is of a bay color : the vent-feathers black : the legs red. The female has the same marks in the wings as the male, but the colors are less bright : the rest of the plumage resembles that of the common wild duck.

XV. The RED BREASTED SHOVELER.

WE are indebted to Mr. *Bolton* for the description of this bird, who informed us that it was sometimes taken in the decoys in *Lincolnshire*.

It is the size of a common duck. The bill large, broad, serrated at the sides, and entirely of a brownish yellow color : the head large : eyes small : irides yellow : the breast and throat of a reddish brown, the latter paler, but both quite free from any spots. The back is brown, growing paler towards the sides. The tips and pinions of the wings grey : the quill-feathers brown ; the rest of a greyish brown : the *speculum* or spot purple, edged with white : in the female, the spot is blue, and all the other colors are fainter. The tail is short and white : the vent feathers of a bright brown

brown, spotted with darker : the legs short and slender : the feet small, of a reddish brown color.

XVI. The PINTAIL DUCK.

Anas caudacuta (ein spitzschwantz) *Gesner av.* 121.

Aldr. av. iii. 97.

Sea Pheasant, or Cracker. *Wil. orn.* 376.

Le Canard a longue queue.

Briffon av. vi. 369. *tab.* 34.

Shwalbenscheif. *Kram.* 340.

Raii syn. av. 147.

Anas acuta. Lin. syst. 202.

Aler, Ahlvogel. *Faun. Suec. sp.* 126.

Brunnich in append.

Aglek. *Crantz's Greenl.* i. 80.

Br. Zool. 156.

Descr.

THE form of this species is slender, and the neck long : its weight twenty-four ounces : its length twenty-eight inches ; its breadth one yard two inches. The bill is black in the middle, blue on the sides : the head is ferruginous, tinged behind the ears with purple ; from beneath the ears commences a white line, which runs some way down the neck ; this line is bounded by black : the hind part of the neck, the back, and sides are elegantly marked with white and dusky waved lines : the fore part of the neck, and belly are white : the scapulars striped with black and white : the coverts of the wings ash-colored ; the lowest tipt with dull orange : the middle quill-feathers barred on their outmost webs with green, black and white : the exterior feathers of the tail are ash-colored : the two middle black, and three inches longer than the others : the feet of a lead color. The female is of a light brown color, spotted with black. Mr. *Hartlib*, in the appendix to his *Legacy*, tells

tells us that those birds are found in great abundance in *Connaught* in *Ireland*, in the month of *February* only; and that they are much esteemed for their delicacy.

XVII. The SWALLOW TAIL'D SHIELDRAKE.

Wil. orn. 364.

Raii syn. av. 145.

Long tailed Duck. *Edw. av.* 280.

Le Canard a longue queue d'Illande. *Briffon av.* vi. 379.

Anas glacialis. Lin. syst. 203.

Norvegis Ungle, Angeltaske v.

Troefoerer. *Feroensibus* Oedel.

Islandis Ha-Ella v. Ha-Old.

Incolis Cbristiansoe Gadiffen.

Klaeshahn Dykker. *Brunnich.*

75. 76.

Br. Zool. 156.

THIS is inferior in size to the former. The Descr. bill is short, black at the tip and base, orange colored in the middle; the cheeks are of a pale brown: the hind part of the head, and the neck both before and behind are white; the sides of the upper part of the neck are marked with a large dusky bar, pointing downwards; the breast and back are of a deep chocolate color; the scapulars are white, long, narrow, and sharp pointed. The coverts of the wings, and greater quill-feathers dusky; the lesser of a reddish brown: the belly white; the four middle feathers of the tail are black; and near four inches longer than the others, which are white: the legs dusky. These birds breed in the most northern parts of the world, and only visit our coasts in the severest winters.

XVIII. The P O C H A R D.

La Cane a teste rousse. *Belon av.*

173.

Anas fera fusca, vel media (ein
wilde grauwe ente, Rotent.)

Gesner av. 116.

Aldr. av. iii. 93.

Poker, Pochard, or red headed
Wigeon. *Wil. orn.* 367.

Raii syn. av. 143.

Anas ferina. Lin. syst. 203.

Faun. Suec. sp. 127.

Penelope, le Millouin. *Briffon*
av. vi. 384. *tab.* 35. *fig.* 1.

Danis Brun-Nakke. Norvegis

Rod-Nakke. Brunnich. 80.

Br. Zool. 156.

Deser.

ITS weight is about one pound twelve ounces; its length nineteen inches; its breadth two feet and a half. The bill is of a deep lead color: the head and neck are of a bright bay color: the breast, and part of the back where it joins the neck are black: the coverts of the wings, the scapulars, back and sides under the wings are of a pale grey, elegantly marked with narrow lines of black: the quill-feathers dusky: the belly ash-colored and brown: the tail consists of twelve short feathers, of a deep grey color: the legs lead colored: the irides of a bright yellow, tinged with red. The head of the female is of a pale reddish brown: the breast is rather of a deeper color: the coverts of the wings a plain ash-color: the back marked like that of the male: the belly ash-colored. These birds frequent fresh water as well as the sea; and being very delicate eating, are much sought for in the *London* markets, where they are known by the name of *Dun birds*.

XIX. The FERRUGINOUS DUCK.

Anas rufa rostro pedibusque cinereis. Faun. Suec. sp. 47.

THE description of this species was sent to us Descr.
by Mr. *Bolton*. The weight was twenty ounces:
the bill is long and flatted, rounded a little at the
base, ferrated along the edges of each mandible, and
furnished with a nail at the end of the upper. The
color a pale blue. The head, neck, and whole upper
part of the bird is of an agreeable reddish brown:
the throat, breast and belly of the same color, but
paler: the legs of a pale blue; but the webs of the
feet black.

This species, he informed us, was killed in
Lincolnshire. We do not find it mentioned by any
writer, except *Linnaeus* took his description from *Rud-*
beck's paintings; and adds, that it is found, though
rarely, in the *Swedish* rivers.

XX. The GREY HEADED DUCK.

Glaucion, en francoys le Morillon. Aldr. av. iii. 92.
Belon av. 166.

WE are likewise indebted to Mr. *Bolton* for an ac- Descr.
count of this bird, which he suspects to be the
Glaucion of authors. It agrees in all respects with
Belon's description of that bird, the head and neck
excepted, which in that of the *French* ornithologist are
of a reddish brown *.

* Tannée.

It

It is the size of a common duck: the bill large, broad, and serrated round the edges, and of a yellowish brown color: the head large and round: the irides of the color of gold: the head and upper part of the neck are of a deep grey, at the extremity of the grey passes a collar of white half an inch broad, surrounding the neck. The breast is of a silvery grey: the belly quite white: the back and wings black; the latter, when expanded, shew a few white feathers: the tail short and black: the legs of a yellowish brown color: the hind toe small.

XXI. The WIGEON.

Anas fistularis (ein Pfeifente)

Gesner av. 121.

Penelope. *Aldr. av.* iii. 92.

Wigeon, or Whewer. *Wil. orn.*

375.

Raii syn. av. 146.

Anas penelops. Lin. syst. 202.

Wriand. Faun. Suec. sp. 124.

Anas fistularis, le Canard fist-

fleur. *Briffon av.* vi. 391.

tab. 35. *fig.* 2.

Eiffent mil weiffer platten. *Kram.*

342.

Danis Bles-And. Brunnich. 72.

Br. Zool. 157. *add. plates.*

Descr.

THE wigeon weighs near twenty-three ounces; the length is twenty inches; the breadth two feet three. The bill is lead coloured; the end of it black; the head, and upper part of the neck is of a bright light bay; the forehead paler, in some almost white: the plumage of the back, and sides under the wings are elegantly marked with narrow, black and white undulated lines: the breast is of a purplish hue, which sometimes though rarely is marked with round black spots: the belly white: the vent feathers black. In some birds the coverts of the wings are almost wholly white; in others

thers of a pale brown, edged with white : the greater quail feathers are dusky ; the outmost webs of the middle feathers of a fine green, the tips black ; the last are elegantly striped with black and white. The two middle feathers of the tail are longer than the others, black and sharp-pointed ; the rest ash-colored the legs dusky. The head of the female is of a rusty brown, spotted with black ; the back is of a deep brown edged with a paler : the tips of the lesser quail feathers white : the belly white.

XXII. The G A D W A L L.

Anas strepera (ein Leiner.) *Gesner*

av. 121.

Aldr. av. iii. 97.

Gadwall, or Gray. *Wil. orn.*

374.

Raii syn. av. 145.

Le Chipeau. *Brissou av.* vi. 339.

tab. 33. *fig.* 1.

Anas strepera. *Lin. syst.* 200.

Faun. Suec. sp. 121.

Cimbris Knarre-Gaas. Brunnich.

91.

Br. Zool. 157.

THIS species is rather inferior in size to the wi- Descr.
geon. The bill is two inches long, black, and flat ; the head, and upper part of the neck are of a reddish brown spotted with black ; the lower part, the breast, the upper part of the back, and the scapulars are beautifully marked with black and white lines ; the belly is of a dirty white ; the rump above and below is black ; the tail ash-colored, edged with white ; the coverts on the ridge of the wing are of a pale reddish brown ; those beneath are of purplish red, the lowest of a deep black ; the greater quail feathers are dusky ; the inner web of three of the lesser quail feathers are white ; which forms a conspicuous spot ;
the

the legs are orange coloured. The breast of the female is of a reddish brown, spotted with black; the back of the same color; and tho' it has the same marks on the wings, they are far inferior in brightness to those of the male.

XXIII. The G A R G A N E Y.

La Sarcelle. *Belon av.* 175.

Querquedula varia. *Gesner av.* 107.

Scavolo, Cercevollo, Garganello.

Aldr. av. iii. 89. 90.

Wil. orn. 377.

Querquedula prima Aldr. Raii syn. av. 148*.

La Sarcelle. *Briffon av.* vi. 427.

tab. 39.

Krickantl. Kram. 343.

Anas Querquedula. Lin. syst. 203.

Faun. Suec. sp. 128.

Norvegis Kerk-And. quibusd.

Saur-And. Brunnich. 81.

Br. Zool. 158.

Descr.

THIS species is of a size between the wigeon and teal. The bill is of a deep lead color; the crown of the head is dusky, marked with oblong streaks; on the chin is a large black spot; from the corner of each eye is a long white line, that points to the back of the neck: the cheeks, and upper part of the neck, are of a pale purple, marked with minute oblong lines of white, pointing downwards; the breast is of a light brown, marked with semicircular bars of black: the belly is white; the lower part and vent varied with specks, and bars of a dusky hue; the coverts of the wings are grey; but the lowest are tipped with white; the first quill feathers are ash-colored;

* Mr. Ray, in his *syn. av.* 147. describes a duck under the name of *Phaseas*; in *Yorkshire* it is called the widgeon: he says, the head and neck are brown, spotted with triangular black marks: the body, wings and tail dusky, edged with a paler color: in the wings is a double line of white: belly white: bill and legs blue. We suspect it to be a young bird of this species, but wait for further information before we can determine it.

the

the exterior webs of those in the middle green; the scapulars are long and narrow, and elegantly striped with white, ash-color, and black; the tail dusky; the legs lead color. The female has an obscure white mark over the eye; the rest of the plumage is of a brownish ash-color, not unlike the hen teal, but the wing wants the green spot, which sufficiently distinguishes these birds.

XXIV. The T E A L.

Querquedula. Gesner av. 106.

Garganei. Aldr. av. iii. 90.

Wil. orn. 377.

Raii syn. av. 147.

La petite Sarcelle. Brisson av.

vi. 436. *tab.* 40. *fig.* 1.

Rothantl, Pfeiffantl. Kram. 343.

Anas Crecca. Lin. syst. 204.

Arta, Kræcka. Faun. Suec. sp.
129.

Cimbris Atteling-And. Norvegis

Hestelort-And. Danis Com-

muniter Krik-And. Brunnich.

82, 83.

Br. Zool. 158. *add. plates.*

THE Teal weighs about twelve ounces: the length is fiveteen inches; the breadth twenty-eight. The bill is black: the head, and upper part of the neck are of a deep bay: from the bill to the hind part of the head is a broad bar of glossy changeable green, bounded on the lower side by a narrow white line: the lower part of the neck, the beginning of the back, and the sides under the wings, are elegantly marked with waved lines of black and white: the breast and belly are of a dirty white; the vent black: the tail sharp pointed, and dusky: the coverts of the wings brown: the greater quill feathers dusky, the exterior webs of the lesser marked with a glossy green spot; above that another of black, and the tips

H h

white;

white: the irides whitish; the legs dusky. The female is of a brownish ash-color, spotted with black; and has a green spot on the wing like the male.

By the description Mr. *Willoughby* has left of the *summer Teal* p. 378. we suspect that it differs not in the species from the common kind, only in sex. *Linnaeus* hath placed it among the birds of his country*; but leaves a blank in the place of its residence; and hath evidently copied Mr. *Willoughby*'s imperfect description of it: and to confirm our suspicion that he has followed the error of our countryman, we observed that a bird sent us from the *Baltic* sea, under the title of *anas circia*, the summer Teal of *Linnaeus*, was no other than the female of our Teal.

Genus XVIII. The CORVORANT†.

I. The CORVORANT. *The Female.*

Le Cormorant. <i>Belon av.</i> 161.	Pelecanus Carbo. <i>Lin. syst.</i> 216.
Corvus aquaticus, Carbo aquaticus. 136.	N. Com. Petr. iv. 423.
Phalacrocorax. <i>Gesner av.</i> 683.	Le Cormoran. <i>Briffon av.</i> vi.
350.	511. tab. 45. <i>The Male.</i>
<i>Aldr. av.</i> iii. 108.	<i>Norvegis</i> Skarv, Strand-Ravn.
The Cormorant. <i>Wil. orn.</i> 329.	<i>Danis</i> Aalekrage. <i>Islandis</i> Skar-
<i>Raii syn. av.</i> 122.	<i>fur.</i> <i>Brunnich.</i> 120, 121.
	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 159.

Descr. **T**HIS species weighs four pounds. The length is thirty-two inches; the breadth near four feet. The bill dusky, three inches and a half long, and

* *Fauna Suecica*, sp. 130.

† The learned Dr. *Kay*, or *Caius*, derives the word *Corvorant* from *Corvus vorans*, from whence corruptly our word *Cormorant*. *Caii opusc.* 99.

destitute of nostrils ; the base of the lower mandible is covered with a naked yellowish skin, that extends under the chin, and forms a sort of pouch : a loose skin of the same color reaches from the upper mandible round the eyes, and angles of the mouth : the head and neck are of a sooty blackness ; but under the chin of the male, the feathers are white : and the head in that sex is adorned with a short loose pendent crest : the coverts of the wings, the scapulars, and the back, are of a deep green, edged with black, and glossed with blue : the quill feathers and tail dusky ; the last consists of fourteen feathers : the belly dusky with a whitish bed in the midst of it : on the thighs of the male is a tuft of white feathers : the legs are short, strong, and black ; the middle claw ferrated on the inside : the irides are of a light ash-color.

These birds occupy the highest parts of the cliffs that impend over the sea : they make their nests of sticks, sea tang, grass, &c. and lay six or seven white eggs of an oblong form. In winter they disperse along the shores, and visit the fresh waters, where they make great havoc among the fish. They are remarkably voracious, having a most sudden digestion, promoted by the infinite quantity of small worms that fill their intestines. The corvorant has the rankest and most disagreeable smell of any bird, even when alive. Its form is disagreeable ; its voice hoarse and croaking, and its qualities base. No wonder then that *Milton* should make *satan* personate this bird, to survey undelighted the beauties of Paradise : and sit devising death, on the tree of life *.

* *Paradise lost*, book iv. l. 194, &c.

II. The S H A G.

Corvus aquaticus minor. <i>Aldr.</i>	Le petit Cormoran. <i>Briffon av.</i>
<i>av.</i> iii. 109.	vi. 516.
The Shag, called in the North of <i>England</i> the Crane. <i>Wil. orn.</i>	Pelecanus graculus. <i>Lin. syst.</i>
330.	217.
Corvus aquaticus minor. Gracu- lus palinipes dictus. <i>Rail syn.</i>	Phalacrocorax cristatus. <i>Norvegis</i>
<i>av.</i> 123.	Top-Skarv. <i>Brunnich ornith.</i>
	123.
	<i>Br. Zool.</i> 159.

Defer.

THE shag is much inferior in size to the corvorant: the length is twenty-seven inches; the breadth three feet six. The bill is four inches long, and more slender than that of the preceding: the head is adorned with a crest two inches long, pointing backward: the whole plumage of the upper part of this bird is of a fine and very shining green, the edges of the feathers a purplish black; but the lower part of the back is wholly green: the belly is dusky: the tail consists of only twelve feathers, of a dusky hue, tinged with green; the legs are black, and like those of the corvorant. Both these species agree in their manners, and breed in the same places: and, what is very strange in webbed-footed birds, will perch and build in trees, both swim with their head quite erect, and are very difficult to be shot; for, like the *Grebes* and *Divers*, as soon as they see the flash of the gun pan, they pop under water, and never rise but at a considerable distance.

We are indebted for this bird to the late Mr. *William Morris* of *Holyhead*, with whom we had a constant correspondence for several years, receiving from
that

that worthy man and intelligent naturalist, regular and faithful accounts of the various animals frequenting that vast promontory.

III. The G A N N E T.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>Anser boschanus</i> five <i>scoticus</i> . <i>Gesner</i> | <i>Solan</i> Goose. <i>Martin's</i> voy. <i>St.</i> |
| <i>av.</i> 163. | <i>Kilda.</i> 27. |
| <i>Aldr.</i> <i>av.</i> 68. | <i>Descript.</i> <i>west.</i> <i>isles.</i> 281. |
| <i>Sula.</i> <i>Hoieri</i> <i>Clus.</i> <i>ex.</i> 367. | <i>Macaulay's</i> <i>hist.</i> <i>St. Kilda.</i> 133. |
| <i>Hector</i> <i>Boeth.</i> 6. | <i>Sula</i> <i>Bassana</i> , le Fou de Bassan. |
| <i>Soland</i> Goose. <i>Wil.</i> <i>orn.</i> 328. | <i>Briffon</i> <i>av.</i> vi. 503. <i>tab.</i> 44. |
| <i>Raii</i> <i>syn.</i> <i>av.</i> 122. | <i>Pelecanus</i> <i>Bassanus.</i> <i>Lin.</i> <i>syft.</i> |
| <i>Itin.</i> 191. 269. 279. | 217. |
| <i>Sibb.</i> <i>hist.</i> <i>Scot.</i> 20. <i>tab.</i> 9. | <i>Norvegis</i> <i>Sule</i> , Hav-Sul. <i>Brunnich.</i> |
| <i>Sib.</i> <i>hist.</i> <i>Fife.</i> 45. 47. | 124. |
| <i>Jaen</i> van Gent. <i>Marten's</i> <i>Spitz-</i> | <i>Br. Zool.</i> 160. |
| <i>berg.</i> 97. | |

THIS species weighs four pounds and a quarter: the length is three feet one inch; the breadth six feet two inches. The bill is six inches long, strait almost to the point where it inclines down; and the sides are irregularly jagged, that it may hold its prey with more security: about an inch from the base of the upper mandible is a sharp process pointing forward; it has no nostrils; but in their place a long furrow, that reaches almost to the end of the bill: the whole is of a dirty white, tinged with ash-color. The tongue is very small, and placed low in the mouth: a naked skin of a fine blue surrounds the eyes, which are of a pale yellow, and are full of vivacity: this bird is remarkable for the quickness of its sight; *Martin* tells us that *Solan* is derived from an *Irish* word expressive of that quality.

Descr.

From the corner of the mouth is a narrow slip of black bare skin, that extends to the hind part of the head: beneath the chin is another, that like the pouch of the *Pelecan*, is dilatable, and of size sufficient to contain five or six entire herrings; which, in the breeding season, it carries at once to its mate or young.

The neck is very long: the body flat, and very full of feathers: the crown of the head, and a small space on the hind part of the neck is buff colored: the rest of the plumage is white: the bastard wing and greater quill feathers excepted, which are black; the legs and toes are black; but the fore part of both are marked with a stripe of fine pea green. The tail consists of twelve sharp pointed feathers, the middle of which is the longest.

The young birds, during the first year, differ greatly in color from the old ones; being of a dusky hue, speckled with numerous triangular white spots; and at that time resemble in colors the *speckled Diver*. Each bird, if left undisturbed, would only lay one egg in the year; but if that be taken away, they will lay another; if that is also taken, then a third; but never more that season. A wise provision of nature, to prevent the extinction of the species by accidents, and to supply food for the inhabitants of the places where they breed; their egg is white, and rather less than that of the common goose; the nest is large and formed of any thing the bird finds floating on the water such as grass, sea-plants, shavings, &c. These birds frequent the *isle of Ailsa*, in the *Firth of Clyde*; the rocks adjacent to *St. Kilda*, a small isle near the
Orkneys;

Orkneys; the *Skelig isles*, off the coasts of *Kerry, Ireland* * and the *Bass isle*, in the *firth* of *Edinburgh*: the multitudes that inhabit these places are prodigious. Dr. *Harvey*'s elegant account of the latter, will serve to give some idea of the numbers of these, and of the other birds that annually migrate to that little spot.

“ *There is a small island called by the Scotch Bass*
 “ *island, not more than a mile in circumference; the sur-*
 “ *face is almost wholly covered during the months of May*
 “ *and June with nests, eggs, and young birds; so that*
 “ *it is scarcely possible to walk without treading on them:*
 “ *and the flocks of birds in flight, are so prodigious as to*
 “ *darken the air like clouds; and their noise is such that*
 “ *you cannot without difficulty hear your next neighbour's*
 “ *voice. If you look down upon the sea, from the top of*
 “ *the precipice, you will see it on every side covered with*
 “ *infinite numbers of birds of different kinds, swimming*
 “ *and hunting for their prey: if in sailing round the island*
 “ *you survey the hanging cliffs, you may see in every cragg*
 “ *or fissure of the broken rocks, innumerable birds of va-*
 “ *rious sorts and sizes, more than the stars of heaven when*
 “ *viewed in a serene night: if from afar you see the dis-*
 “ *tant flocks, either flying to or from the island, you would*
 “ *imagine them to be a vast swarm of bees* †.

* This information we owe to that worthy prelate, the late Dr. *Pocock*, Bishop of *Meath*; who had visited the *Skeligs*. Mr. *Smith*, in his histories of *Cork* and *Kerry*, confounds this bird with the Gull described by Mr. *Willoughby*; from whom he has evidently borrowed the whole description.

† *Est insula parva, Scoti Basse nominant, haud amplius mille passuum circuitu amplitudo ejus clauditur. Hujus insulae superficies, mensibus Maio & Junio nidis ovis pullisque propemodum tota instrata est, adeo ut vix, prae eorum copia pedem liberè ponere liceat: tantaque super-volantium turba, ut nubium instar, solem caelumque auferant: tantusque vociferantium clangor & strepitus, ut propè alloquentes vix audias. Si*

Nor do the rocks of *St. Kilda* seems to be less frequented by these birds; for *Martin* assures us, that the inhabitants of that small island consume annually no less than 22,600 young birds of this species, besides an amazing quantity of their eggs; these being their principal support throughout the year; they preserve both eggs and fowls in small pyramidal stone buildings, covering them with turf ashes, to preserve them from moisture. This is a dear-bought food, earned at the hazard of their lives, either by climbing the most difficult and narrow paths, where (to appearance) they can barely cling, and that too, at an amazing height over a raging sea: or else being lowered down from above, they collect their annual provision, thus hanging in midway air; placing their whole dependance on the uncertain footing of one person who holds the rope, by which they are suspended at the top of the precipice.

The *Gannets* are birds of passage. Their first appearance in those islands is in *March*; their continuance there till *August* or *September*, according as the inhabitants take or leave their first egg; but in general the time of breeding, and that of their departure seems to coincide with the arrival of the herring, and the migration of that fish (which is their principle food)

subiectum mare inde, tanquam ex edita turri & altissimo præcipitio depexeris, idem quoque versum, infinitis diversorum generum avibus natantibus prædæque inbiantibus, opertum videas. Si circumnavigando imminentem cli-vum suspicere libuerit; videas in singulis prærupti loci crepidinibus & recessibus, avium cujuslibet generis & magnitudinis, ordines innumerabiles, plures sanè quam nocte, sereno cælo, stellæ conspiciuntur. Si advolantes avolantesque eminus adspexeris, apum profecto ingens examen credas. De generat. Animal. Exercit. 11.

out of those seas. It is probable that these birds attend the herring and pilchard during their whole circuit round the *British* islands; the appearance of the former being always esteemed by the fishermen as a sure presage of the approach of the latter. It migrates in quest of food as far south, as the mouth of the *Tagus*, being frequently seen off *Lisbon* during the month of *December*, plunging for *Sardinæ*, fish resembling, if not the same with our *Pilchard*.

They are well known on most of our coasts; but not by the name of the *Soland-Goose*. In *Cornwal* and in *Ireland* they are called *Gannets*; by the *Welsh* *Gan*. The excellent Mr. Ray supposed the *Cornish Gannet* to be a species of large Gull; a very excusable mistake, for during his six months residence in *Cornwal*, he never had an opportunity of seeing that bird, except flying; and in the air it has the appearance of a Gull. On that supposition he gave our *Skua*, p. 417. the title of *Cataraeta*, a name borrowed from *Aristotle**, and which admirably expresses the rapid descent of this bird on its prey. Mr. Moyle first detected the mistake†; and the Rev Doctor *William Borlase*, by presenting us with a fine specimen of this bird, confirms the opinion of Mr. Moyle; at the same time he favored us with so accurate an account of some part of the natural history of this bird, that we shall use the liberty he indulged us with, of adding it to this description.

“ The *Gannet* comes on the coasts of *Cornwal* in the
“ latter end of summer, or beginning of autumn;
“ hovering over the shoals of pilchards that come

* Page 1045.

† *Moyle's works* i. 424.

“ down to us through *St. George's* channel from the
“ northern seas. The *Gannet* seldom comes near the
“ land, but is constant to its prey, a sure sign to the
“ fishermen that the pilchards are on the coasts; and
“ when the pilchards retire, generally about the end
“ of *November*, the *Gannets* are seen no more. The
“ bird now sent was killed at *Chandour* near *Mountsbay*
“ *Sept. 30, 1762*, after a long struggle with a water-
“ spaniel, assisted by the boatmen; for it was strong
“ and pugnacious. The person who took it observed
“ that it had a transparent membrane under the eyelid,
“ with which it covered at pleasure the whole eye,
“ without obscuring the sight or shutting the eyelid;
“ a gracious provision for the security of the eyes of
“ so weighty a creature, whose method of taking its
“ prey is by darting headlong on it from a height of
“ a hundred and fifty feet or more into the water.
“ About four years ago one of these birds flying over
“ *Penzance*, (a thing that rarely happens) and seeing
“ some pilchards lying on a fir-plank, in a cellar used
“ for curing fish, darted itself down with such violence
“ that it struck its bill quite through the board (about
“ an inch and a quarter thick) and broke its neck.”

These birds are sometimes taken at sea by a deception of the like kind: The fishermen fasten a pilchard to a board, and leave it floating; which inviting bait decoys the unwary *Gannet* to its own destruction.

We are uncertain whether the *Gannet* breeds in any other part of *Europe* besides our own islands; except (as *Mr. Ray* suspects, the *Sula*, described in *Clusius's Exotics*, which breeds in the *Ferroe* isles) be the same bird. In *America* there are two species of birds of this genus,
that

that bear a great resemblance to it in their general form and their manner of preying. Mr. *Catesby* has given the figure of the head of one, which he calls the *Greater Booby*; his description suits that of the young *Gannet*; but the angle on the lower mandible made us formerly suspect that it was not the same bird; but from some late informations we have been favored with, we find it is common to both countries, and during summer frequents *North America*. Like the *Penguin*, it informs navigators of the approach of soundings, who on sight of it drop the plummet. *Linnaeus* classes our bird with the *Pelecan*; in the tenth edition of his system, he confounds it with the bird described by Sir *Hans Sloane*, hist. *Jam.* vol. i. p. 31. *preface*. whose colors differ from the *Gannet* in each stage of life: but in his last edition he very properly separates them. We continue it in the same class, under the generical name of *Corvorants*, as more familiar to the *English* ear than that of *Pelecan*.



Pullon pinx

The Roller

Mazell fecit

A P P E N D I X.

Birds now extinct in *Great-Britain*, or such as wander here accidentally.

L A N D B I R D S.

I. The R O L L E R. *Tab.* 12.

Roller. *Wil. orn.* 131.

Garrulus argentoratensis. Raii syn.
av. 41.

Galgulus, le Rollier. Brisson av.
ii. 64. *tab.* 5.

Coracias Garrula. Lin. syst. 159.

Spransk Kraka, Blakraka, Allekraka. *Faun. Suec. sp.* 94.

Edw. 109.

The Shagarag. *Shaw's travels.*
252.

Ellekrage. *Brunnich.* 35.

OF these birds we have heard of only two being seen at large in our island; one was shot near *Helston-bridge, Cornwall*, and an account of it transmitted to us by the reverend doctor *William Borlase*. They are frequent in most parts of *Europe*, and we have received them from *Denmark*.

In size it is equal to a jay. The bill is black, Descr.
strait, and hooked at the point; the base beset with
bristles: the space about the eyes is bare and naked:
behind each ear is also another bare spot or protu-
berance: the head, neck, breast and belly are of a
light bluish green: the back and feathers of the
wings next to it are of a reddish brown: the coverts
on the ridge of the wings are of a rich blue; beneath
them

them of a pale green : the upper part and tips of the quill-feathers are dusky ; the lower parts of a fine deep blue ; the rump is of the same color : the tail consists of twelve feathers, of which the outmost on each side are considerably longer than the rest ; are of a light blue, and tipped with black, beneath that spot of a deep blue ; as is the case with such part of the quill-feathers that are black above : the other feathers of the tail are of a dull green : the legs short, and of a dirty yellow.

It is remarkable for making a chattering noise, from which it is by some called *Garrulus*.

II. The NUTCRACKER. *Tab. 13.*

Caryocatactes, <i>Wil. orn.</i> 132.	Notwecka, Notkraka. <i>Faun. Suec.</i>
<i>Raii syn. av.</i> 42.	<i>sp.</i> 19.
Nucifraga, le Casse-noix. <i>Briffon</i>	<i>Edw.</i> 240.
<i>av. ii.</i> 59. <i>tab.</i> 5.	<i>Danis</i> Noddekridge. <i>Norvegis</i>
Corvus Caryocatactes. <i>Lin. syst.</i>	Not-kraake. <i>Brunnich.</i> 34.
157.	

THE specimen we took our description from, is the only one we ever heard was shot in these kingdoms ; it was killed near *Mostyn, Flintshire, October 5, 1753.*

Descr. It was somewhat less than a jackdaw : the bill straight, strong and black : the color of the whole head and neck, breast and body, was a rusty brown : the crown of the head and the rump were plain : the other parts marked with triangular white spots : the wings are black : the coverts spotted in the same manner as the body : the tail rounded at the end, black



G. Edwards pinxit

J. Mayall fecit

THE HISTORY OF

The history of the city of London, from the first settlement of the Saxons, to the present time. The first part of the history, from the first settlement of the Saxons, to the reign of King Henry the First, is contained in the first volume. The second part, from the reign of King Henry the First, to the reign of King Henry the Second, is contained in the second volume. The third part, from the reign of King Henry the Second, to the reign of King Richard the First, is contained in the third volume. The fourth part, from the reign of King Richard the First, to the reign of King John, is contained in the fourth volume. The fifth part, from the reign of King John, to the reign of King Henry the Third, is contained in the fifth volume. The sixth part, from the reign of King Henry the Third, to the reign of King Edward the First, is contained in the sixth volume. The seventh part, from the reign of King Edward the First, to the reign of King Edward the Second, is contained in the seventh volume. The eighth part, from the reign of King Edward the Second, to the reign of King Edward the Third, is contained in the eighth volume. The ninth part, from the reign of King Edward the Third, to the reign of King Richard the Second, is contained in the ninth volume. The tenth part, from the reign of King Richard the Second, to the reign of King Henry the Fourth, is contained in the tenth volume. The eleventh part, from the reign of King Henry the Fourth, to the reign of King Henry the Fifth, is contained in the eleventh volume. The twelfth part, from the reign of King Henry the Fifth, to the reign of King Henry the Sixth, is contained in the twelfth volume. The thirteenth part, from the reign of King Henry the Sixth, to the reign of King Edward the Fourth, is contained in the thirteenth volume. The fourteenth part, from the reign of King Edward the Fourth, to the reign of King Richard the Third, is contained in the fourteenth volume. The fifteenth part, from the reign of King Richard the Third, to the reign of King Henry the Seventh, is contained in the fifteenth volume. The sixteenth part, from the reign of King Henry the Seventh, to the reign of King Henry the Eighth, is contained in the sixteenth volume. The seventeenth part, from the reign of King Henry the Eighth, to the reign of King Edward the Sixth, is contained in the seventeenth volume. The eighteenth part, from the reign of King Edward the Sixth, to the reign of King Mary the First, is contained in the eighteenth volume. The nineteenth part, from the reign of King Mary the First, to the reign of Queen Elizabeth the First, is contained in the nineteenth volume. The twentieth part, from the reign of Queen Elizabeth the First, to the reign of King James the First, is contained in the twentieth volume. The twenty-first part, from the reign of King James the First, to the reign of King Charles the First, is contained in the twenty-first volume. The twenty-second part, from the reign of King Charles the First, to the reign of King Charles the Second, is contained in the twenty-second volume. The twenty-third part, from the reign of King Charles the Second, to the reign of King James the Second, is contained in the twenty-third volume. The twenty-fourth part, from the reign of King James the Second, to the reign of King George the First, is contained in the twenty-fourth volume. The twenty-fifth part, from the reign of King George the First, to the reign of King George the Second, is contained in the twenty-fifth volume. The twenty-sixth part, from the reign of King George the Second, to the reign of King George the Third, is contained in the twenty-sixth volume. The twenty-seventh part, from the reign of King George the Third, to the reign of King George the Fourth, is contained in the twenty-seventh volume. The twenty-eighth part, from the reign of King George the Fourth, to the reign of King George the Fifth, is contained in the twenty-eighth volume. The twenty-ninth part, from the reign of King George the Fifth, to the reign of King George the Sixth, is contained in the twenty-ninth volume. The thirtieth part, from the reign of King George the Sixth, to the reign of King George the Seventh, is contained in the thirtieth volume.





G. Edwards pinxit.

P. Mayall fecit.

black tip with white : the vent feathers white : the legs dusky.

This bird is also found in most parts of *Europe*. We received a specimen from *Denmark* by means of Mr. *Brunnich*, author of the *Ornithologia borealis*, a gentleman to whose friendship we owe a numerous collection of the curiosities of his country.

It feeds on nuts, from whence the name.

III. The ROSE COLORED OUZEL. *Tab. 14.*

Wil. orn. 194.

Merula rosea. Raii syn. av. 67.

Le Merle Couleur de Rose. Brisson

va. ii. 250.

Turdus roseus. Lin. syst. 294.

Faun. Suec. sp. 219.

Edw. 20.

MR. *Edwards* discovered this beautiful bird twice in our Island, near *London*, at *Norwood*, and another time in *Norfolk*. The figure of this and the preceding, were copied, by permission, from his beautiful and accurate designs, which we gratefully acknowledge, as well as every other assistance from our worthy friend ; whose pencil has done as much honor to our country, as the integrity of his heart, and communicative disposition, has procured him esteem from a numerous and respectable acquaintance.

The size of this bird appears by the print to be equal to that of a *stare*. The bill at the point is black, at the base a dirty flesh color: the head is adorned with a crest hanging backwards. The head, crest, neck, wings, and tail are black, glossed with a changeable blue, purple and green : the breast, belly, back,

Descr.

back, and lesser coverts of the wings are of a rose color, mixed with a few spots of black: the legs of a dirty orange color.

This bird is found in *Lapland*, *Italy* and *Syria*. About *Aleppo* it is called the *locust bird*, possibly from its food; and appears there only in summer*. In *Italy* it is styled the sea-stare; and as *Aldrovandus* says, frequents heaps of dung†. And Mr. *Ekmarck*‡ informs us, that it resides in *Lapland*, never passing beyond the limits of that frozen region. We have mentioned very opposite climes, but believe it to be a scarce bird in all, at least in *Europe*.

IV. The C R A N E. Tab. 15.

Le Grue. *Belon. av.* 187.

Grus. *Gesner av.* 528.

A Crane. *Turner.*

Gru, Grua. *Aldr. av.* iii. 132.

Wil. orn. 274.

Raii syn. av. 95.

La Grue. *Briffon av.* v. 374.

tab. 33.

Kranich. *Kram.* 345.

Ardea Grus. *Lin. syst.* 234.

Trana. *Faun. Suec. sp.* 161.

Danis Trane. *Brunnich.*

Br. Zool. 118.

THIS species was placed, in the folio edition of the *Zoology*, among the *British* birds, on the authority of Mr. *Ray*; who informs us, that in his time, they were found during the winter in large flocks in *Lincolnshire* and *Cambridgeshire*: but on the strictest enquiry we learn, that at present the inhabitants of those counties are entirely unacquainted with

* *Ruffel's hist. Alep.* 70.

† *Aldr. av.* ii. 283.

‡ *Migr. av. Amæn. acad.* iv. 594.

them;



them; we therefore conclude, that these birds have forsaken our island. They were formerly in high esteem at our tables, for the delicacy of their flesh; for they feed only on grain, herbs, or insects; so have nothing of the rankness of the piscivorous birds of this genus.

Its weight is about ten pounds; the length six Descr. feet; the bill of a darkish green, four inches long; and a little depressed on the top of the upper mandible; the top of the head covered with black bristles; the back of the head bald and red, beneath which is an ash-colored spot: from the eyes on each side is a broad white line the whole length of the neck: the fore part as far as the breast is black: the quill-feathers are black: the tail ash-colored tipped with black: all the rest of the plumage is ash-colored. The legs are black. No author except *Gesner* takes notice of a large tuft of feathers that spring out of one pinion on each wing: these are unwebbed and finely curled at the ends, which the birds have power to erect or depress; when depressed they hang over and cover the tail. *Gesner* tells us, that these feathers used in his time to be set in gold, and worn as ornaments in caps. Though this species seems to have forsaken these islands at present, yet it was formerly a native, as we find in *Willoughby*, p. 52. that there was a penalty of twenty-pence for destroying an egg of this bird; and *Turner* relates that he has very often seen their young in our marshes. *Marsigli* * says, that the crane lays two eggs like those of a goose, but of a bluish color.

* *Hist. Danub.* v. p. 8.

V. The EGRET. *Tab.* 16.Lesser white Heron. *Wil. orn.*

99.

280.

L'Aigrette. *Briffon av. v.* 431.*Ardea Garzetta. Lin. syst.* 237.Kleiner Weißer Rager. *Kram.**Ardea Alba minor. Raii syn. av.*

345.

WE once received out of *Anglesea*, the feathers of a bird shot there, which we suspect to be the *Egret*, this is the only instance perhaps of its being found in our country. That formerly this bird was very frequent here, appears by some of the old bills of fare: in the famous feast of archbishop *Nevill*, we find no less than a thousand *Asterides**, *Egrets* or *Egrittes*, as it is differently spelt. Perhaps the esteem they were in as a delicacy during those days, occasioned their extirpation in our islands; abroad they are still common, especially in the southern parts of *Europe*, where they appear in flocks.

Descr.

The *Egret* is a most elegant bird; it weighs about one pound; the length is twenty-four inches, to the end of the legs thirty-two: the bill is slender and black: the space about the eyes naked and green: the irides of a pale yellow: the head adorned with a beautiful crest, composed of some short, and of two long feathers hanging backward; these are upwards of four inches in length: the whole plumage is of a resplendent whiteness: the feathers on the breast and the scapulars are very delicate, long, slender and un-

* *Gadwin de Præsul. Angl. com.*

webbed,

V. The EGRET. Tab. 16.

Ardea Alba minor. Kinn. 237.
Ardea Gargensis. Lin. 237.
L'Agoutie. Br. 237.
L'Agoutie. Br. 237.
L'Agoutie. Br. 237.

W. E. once received out of Angles, the feathers of a bird that there, which we supposed to be the Egret, this is the only instance of its being found in our country. That this bird was very frequent here, appears from the old bills of late Bishop Nevill, who, in his collection of feathers, has several of them, and they appear in

The Egret is a most elegant bird; it weighs about one pound; the length is twenty-four inches, to the end of the legs thirty-two; the bill is slender and black; the space about the eyes naked and green; the sides of a pale yellow; the head adorned with a beautiful crest, composed of long short, and of two long feathers hanging down the back.



Desmoulins pinx. The Egret. Mazoll fecit.



webbed, hanging in the lightest and loosest manner: the legs are of a dark green almost black: the scapulars and the crest were formerly much esteemed as ornaments for caps and head-pieces; so that *aigrette* and *egret* came to signify any ornament to a cap, though originally the word was derived from *aigre*, *a cause de l'aigreur de sa voix* *.

We never met with this bird or the crane in *England*, but formed our descriptions from specimens in the elegant cabinet of Doctor *Mauduit* in *Paris*.

VI. The LITTLE BITTERN. *Tab. 17.*

Ardeola (le Blongios) *Briffon av.*
v. 497. *tab. 40. fig. 1.*

Ardea vertice dorsoque nigris,
collo antice et alarum tectrici-
bus lutescentibus. (Stauden
Ragerl, Kleine Moos-kuh.)

Kram. 348.

Boonk or long Neck. *Shaw's*
Travels, 255.

Ardea Minuta. Lin. syst. 240.

Edw. av. 275.

THIS species was shot as it perched on one of the trees in the *Quarry* or public walks in *Shrewsbury*, on the banks of the *Severn*; it is frequent in many other parts of *Europe*, but the only one we ever heard of in *England*.

The length to the tip of the tail was fifteen inches, *Descr.* to the end of the toe, twenty. The bill to the corners of the mouth two inches and a half long, dusky at the point; the sides yellow; the edge jagged: the bulk of the body not larger than that of a *fieldfare*.

The top of the head, the back, and tail were black, glossed with an obscure green: the neck is very long,

* *Belon av. 195.*

the forepart of which, the breast and thighs, were of a buff-color: the belly and vent feathers white: the hind-part of the neck bare of feathers, but covered with those growing on the side of it: on the setting on of the wing, is a large chesnut spot: the lesser coverts of a yellowish buff: the larger coverts whitish: the web of that next the back half buff, and half black: the quill-feathers black: the legs and toes dusky; and what is singular in a bird of this genus, the feathers grow down to the knees: the inside of the middle claw is ferrated.

For this description and the drawing, we are indebted to Mr. *Plymley*.

Mention

Mention having been so frequently made, in this work, of the old *English* feasts, and the species of animals that formed the good cheer; we transcribe from *Leland* an account of that given at the *intronation* of *George Nevell*, archbishop of *York*, in the reign of *Edward IV.* and of the goodly provision made for the same.

In wheate,	300 quarters	Heronshawes,	400
In ale, - -	300 tunne	Fessautes,	200
Wyne, - -	100 tunne	Partriges,	500
Of ypocrasse -	1 pype	Wodcockes,	400
In oxen, - -	104	Curlewes - -	100
Wylde Bulles,	6	Egrittes - -	1000
Muttons - -	1000	Staggess, bucks and roes,	500 and mo.
Veales, - -	304	Pasties of venison colde,	4000
Porkes, - -	304	Parted dyshes of gellies	1000
Swannes, - -	400	Playne dyshes of gellies,	3000
Geese, - -	2000	Colde tartes baked,	4000
Capons, - -	1000	Colde custardes baked,	3000
Pygges, - -	2000	Hot pasties of venison,	1500
Plovers, - -	400	Hot custardes -	2000
Quayles, 100 dozen		Pykes and breames,	608
Of the foules called rees		Porposes and seals,	12
200 dozen		Spices, sugared delicates,	
In peacockes,	104	and wafers plentie.	
Mallardes and teales,	4000		
In cranes, -	204		
In kyddes -	204		
In chyckens	2000		
Pigeons -	4000		
Conyes, -	4000		
In bittors, -	204		

Besides the birds in the above list, there are mentioned, in the particular of the courses *, *Redshanks*, *Styntes*, *Larkes* and *Martynettes* roſt; if the laſt were the ſame with the martin ſwallow, our anceſtors were as general devourers of ſmall birds as the *Italians* are at preſent, to whom none come amiſs.

We muſt obſerve, that in the order of the courses it appears, that only the greateſt delicacies were ſerved up, as we may ſuppoſe to the table where the nobility, gentlemen, and gentlewomen of *worſhip* were ſeated; and thoſe ſeemed to have been dreſſed with almoſt as much art and diſguiſe as at preſent. They had likewiſe their deſert, or, as the term was, *futteltie*; which was in form of dolphins or other animals; and ſometimes reſort was had to the kalendar to embellish the table, and *St. Paul*, *St. Thomas*, *St. Dunſtan*, and a whole multitude of *angels*, *prophetes* and *patriarkes* †, were introduced as *futtelties* to honor the day.

As no mention is made among the diſhes that compoſed two of the courses, of the geese, the pygges, the veales, and other more ſubſtantial food, thoſe muſt have been allotted to the *franklins* and *head yeomen* in the *lower hall*: and thoſe moſt ſingular provisions, the porpoſes and ſeales, indelicate as they may ſeem at preſent, in old times were admitted to the beſt tables: the former, at leaſt, as we learn from doctor *Caius* ‡, who mentions it not only as a common food, but even deſcribes its ſauce.

* *Leland's colleſtanea*, vi. 2.

† *Idem*, 23.

‡ *Caii opuſc.* 113.

ADDITIONS TO CLASS I. AND II.

Horse, page 2.

After three, “the former, according to doctor *Maty*’s computation, covering at every bound a space of ground equal in length to twenty-three feet royal; the latter only that of eighteen feet and a half royal.

Mr. *Wall*, in his late treatise on horses, informs us, that the finest breed comes from the little kingdom of *Yemine*, in *Arabia Felix*, that those of the other parts of *Arabia* are but little valued: but a horse of the best breed in *South Arabia*, will sell for two or three hundred guineas on the spot; that other horses have sold for four or five hundred guineas; and that some of the great breeders in that country will not part with a favorite stallion under fifteen hundred guineas.”

Ox, 18.

Holingshed says, but we know not on what authority, that the *Romans* preferred the *British* cattle to those of *Liguria*. *Hol. Descr. Britain* 109.

Dog, 54.

The first that broke a setting dog to the net, was an *English* nobleman of most distinguished abilities, *Robert Dudley*, duke of *Northumberland*. *Wood* ii. 27.

Polecat, 78.

The following fact may be depended on, which confirms the intercourse between the polecat and the ferret. The reverend Mr. *Lewis*, vicar of *Llan-sowel*, in *Caermarthenshire*, had a tame female ferret which was permitted to go about the house, it absented itself for several days, and then returned; it proved with young, and produced nine of a deep brown color, more like the polecat than the ferret. This female could not copulate with one of its own species, the owner having no other: and those in the neighborhood were three miles distant, and closely confined.

The less long tailed Field

Mouse, 104.

This is a non-descript species communicated to us this year by the rev. Mr. *White* of *Selborne, Hants*.

They are very frequent in *Hampshire*, especially during harvest.

vest. They form their nest above the ground, between the straws of the standing corn, and sometimes in thistles: it is of a round shape, and composed of the blades of corn. They bring about eight young at a time.

These never enter houses: but are often carried in the sheaves of corn into ricks; and often a hundred of them have been found in a single rick, on pulling it down to be housed.

Those that are not thus carried away in the sheaves, shelter themselves during winter underground, and burrow deep, forming a warm bed for themselves of dead grass.

They are the smallest of the *British* quadrupeds: their length from nose to tail is only two inches and a half: their tail two inches: their weight one sixth of an ounce. They are more slender than the other *long tailed Field Mouse*; their eyes less prominent; their ears naked, and standing out of the fur; their tail slightly covered with hair; their

their back of a fuller red than the larger species, inclining to the color of a *Dormouse*: the belly white: a strait line along the sides, dividing the colors of the back and belly.

Bat, 115.

Mr. *White* favored us with an account of a tame bat that he saw last summer, which would eat insects out of a person's hand: while it was eating, it brought its wings round before its mouth, hovering in the manner of birds of prey.

Peregrine Falcon, 136.

The same gentleman sent us a bird of this species shot in *Hants*, just after it had struck down a rook, and was tearing it to pieces: it was a variety that differed from our falcon, in having the whole under side of the body of a dirty deep yellow, but the black bars were similar in both.

Kite, 141.

Clusius relates, that when he was at *London*, he observed a most amazing number of kites, that flocked there for the sake of

of the offal, &c. which was flung into the streets. To kill them was forbidden; and they were so tame as to take their prey in the midst of the greatest crowds, &c. *Belon. obs. ad finem Clus. exot. 108.*

Moor Buzzard, 146. Feeds on fish; for we have discovered the bones and scales in the stomach of a bird of this species.

Pheasant, 212. Mr. Brooks, the bird-merchant in *Holborn*, shewed us a variety of the common pheasant, which he thought came from *China*; the male of which had a white ring round its neck; the other colors resembled those of the common species, but were more brilliant.

Ring-ouzel, 229. Mr. Garnons of *Rhiwgoch*, in *Merionethshire*, says, that there was in a rock near his house a nest of these birds with five young ones. That he knew of one that was kept in a cage twelve years. That the song of these birds is very fine, and like that of a throistle.

Swallows, 250.

To the evidences there mentioned of swallows being found in a torpid state during winter, we may add the following, received since the printing of that page.

The reverend Mr. *Conway*, of *Sychton, Flintshire*, was so obliging as to communicate the following fact; a few years ago, on looking down an old lead mine in that county, he observed numbers of swallows clinging to the timbers of the shaft, seemingly asleep; and on flinging some gravel on them, they just moved, but never attempted to fly or change their place; this was between *All Saints* and *Christmas*.

Mr. *Rice Hughes*, of *Cemmes*, in *Montgomeryshire*, informed us, that he has seen, when a boy, in a gravelly bank near *Llan y Mowddwy*, a cluster of five or six swallows in a torpid state; and about two years ago, he took a single swallow that dropped down a chimney in a like state; but that on holding it to the fire it revived.

Both

Both these facts were during winter.

In *February*, 1766, Mr. *Henry Tyler*, school-master, at *Longnor*, *Shropshire*, saw two swifts adhering by the claws, and in a torpid state, taken from under the roof of *Longnor Chappel*; that on being exposed to the fire, they revived and moved about the room.

251. On the twenty-third of *October* last, a *martin* was seen in *Southwark*, flying in and out of its nest: and on the twenty-ninth of the same month, four or five *swallows* were observed hovering round and settling on the county hospital at *Oxford*. As these birds must have been of a late hatch, it is highly improbable that at so late a season of the year, they would attempt from one of our midland counties, a voyage almost as far as the equator to *Senegal* or *Goree*: we are therefore confirmed in our notion, that there is only a partial migration of these birds; and that the feeble late hatches conceal themselves in this country.

Wheat-ear,

Wheat-ear, 270.

This bird is much fatter after a rainy season than a dry one, for it not only feeds on the flies mentioned in its history, but on earth-worms, which come out of the ground in great numbers during wet weather.

Ruffs 365.

Are taken in many places by a single day net, concealed in shallow water, in which little islands are made within the compass of the net, and on them the ftales are put.

Knot, 366.

In the present hard winter, numbers of the species we call the *ash-colored sandpiper* were brought to us. They varied greatly, but on examination we believe them to be the *knot*, so request those two species may be considered as one.

Small spotted water-ben, 386.

Breeds in *Lincolnshire*, where it is known by the name of *quail*.

OF THE
M I G R A T I O N
O F
BRITISH BIRDS.

Quam multæ glomerantur aves ! ubi frigidus annus

Trans pontum fugat, et terris immittit apricis. *Virgil.*

THE migration of birds, is a subject of so curious a nature, that every one who attempts to write the natural history of animals, ought to look upon it as an essential part of his inquiries, and at the same time should endeavour to assign the cause why some birds prefer certain places for their summer, others, for their winter residence.

To be qualified for this task, it is necessary that the inquirer should confine himself to one certain tract the whole year; he should be diligent in observing the arrival, and the disappearance of birds; he should commit every observation to paper, and compare them with the remarks of correspondents, on the same subject, that lye on every side of him. He should attend likewise to the weather; and to the

2

plenty

plenty or failure of fruits and berries ; as on these accidents many curious remarks may be founded. He should cultivate an acquaintance with the gentlemen of the navy, and other sea-faring people ; he should consult their journals, to discover what birds light on their ships, at what seasons, in what latitudes, and in what weather, and from what points ; and thus trace them in their very course.

A comparative view of the writings of those who should embrace this part of natural history, would throw great light on the subject. But it is to be lamented, that none, except two northern naturalists, Mr. *Klein* and Mr. *Ekmarck*, have professedly treated on this point. The southern parts of *Europe*, which may be supposed to receive, during winter, many of our land birds, have as yet produced no *faunist* to assist the inquiries of the naturalists, which must account for the imperfect knowlege we have of the retreat of many of our birds.

We must not omit, however, our acknowledgements to two eminent pens that have treated this subject as far as it related to rural œconomy ; and, in such a manner, as do honour to their respective countries ; we mean Mr. *Alex. Mal. Berger* and Mr. *Stillingfleet* : whom we should not mention a second time *, but to confess the aid we here receive from their faithful attention to the subject in question.

We wish that any thing we could say, would induce others of our countrymen to follow their example : they need not fear that the matter is exhausted,

* *Vide* Preface.

for every county will furnish new observations; each of which, when compared, will serve to strengthen and confirm the other. Such an amusement is worthy of every one, beneath none; but would become no order of men better than our clergy, as they are (or ought to be) the best qualified, and the most stationary part of the community; and, as this is a mixed species of study (when considered as physico-theology) it is therefore particularly pertinent to their profession. A most ingenious friend, whom modesty prevents from putting his name to a work that renders observations of this kind of the utmost facility, has pointed out the way, and methodized every remark that can occur; the farmer, the sportsman, and the philosopher, will be led to the choice of materials proper to be inserted in that useful companion, *the Naturalist's Journal* *.

From the observations of our friends, from those made by ourselves, and from the lights afforded us by preceding writers, we shall, in the brief relation we can pretend to give, proceed in a generical order, and as far as possible, trace each species of bird to its retreat.

A few words will explain the cause of their disappearance in these northern regions; a defect of food at certain seasons, or the want of a secure asylum from the persecution of man during the time of courtship, incubation and nutrition.

* Printed for *W. Sandby*, Fleet-Street, London, 1767. Price one shilling and six-pence.

Hawks.

All the ignoble species of this genus breed in *Great-Britain*; of the *Falcons*, we only know that which is called the *Peregrine*, which builds its nest annually in the rocks of *Llan-didno, Caernarvonshire*.

Owls.

We are assured that every species breeds here except the *little Owl*, and *short eared Owl*, but we are not certain that those do not. Hawks and owls are birds of prey, and having at all times in this island means of living, are not obliged to quit their quarters.

Butcher-birds.

The *Flusker*, or *red backed Butcher-bird*, breeds with us; we have not heard of the others, so suspect that they migrate.

Crows.

Of this genus, the *Royston Crow*, migrates regularly with the *Woodcock*. The *Chatterer* visits this kingdom at very uncertain times; the former breeds in *Sueden* and *Austria*; but why a bird, whose food is such that may be found at all seasons in this country, should leave us, is paradoxical.

Woodpeckers. Continue with us the whole year; their food being the *larvæ* of insects, which lodge themselves at all times in the bark of trees.

Wryneck. Is a bird that leaves us in the winter. If its diet be ants alone, as several assert, the cause of its migration is very evident. This bird disappears before winter, and revisits us in the spring a little earlier than the *Cuckoo*.

Cuckoo. Disappears early in autumn; the retreat of this and the preceding bird is quite unknown to us.

Nuthatch. Resides in this country the whole year.

Kingfisher. Continues here through all seasons.

Creepers. Never leaves the country.

Hoopoe. Comes to *England* but by accident: we once indeed heard of a pair that attempted to make their nest in a meadow at *Selborne, Hampshire*, but were frightened away by the curiosity of people. It breeds in *Germany*.

Chough. Inhabites *Great Britain* at all times; its food being insects and corn.

Grouse. The whole tribe, except the *Quail*, lives here all the year round: that bird either leaves us, or else retires towards the sea-coasts *.

Bustard. Inhabites our downs and their neighborhood all the year.

Pigeons. Some few of the *Ring-doves* breed here; but the multitude that appears in the winter, is so disproportioned to what continue here the whole year, as to make it certain that the greatest part quit the country in the spring. It is most probable they go to *Sueden* to breed, and return from thence in autumn; as Mr. *Ekmark* informs us they entirely quit that country before winter †. We suspect that the *Turtle* leaves us in the winter, at least changes its place, removing to the southern counties.

Thrushes. The *Fieldfare* and the *Redwing* breed and pass their summers in *Norway*, and other cold countries; their food is berries, which abounding in our kingdoms, tempts them here in the winter. These two and the *Royston crow*, are the only land-birds that re-

* Vide p. 210. of this work.

† *Amen. Acad.* iv. 592.

gularly and constantly migrate into this island, and do not breed here. The *Chatterer*, the *Hawfinch* and *Crossbill* come here at such uncertain times, as not to deserve the name of birds of passage; and, on that account, rather merit a place in the appendix than in the body of the work.

Stare.

Breeds here; possibly several remove to other countries for that purpose, since the produce of those that continue here, seems unequal to the clouds of them that appear in winter. It is not unlikely that many migrate into *Sueden*, where Mr. *Berger* observes they return in spring.

Swallows.

Every species disappears at approach of winter.

*Slender billed
small birds.*

All of these feed on insects and worms; yet only part of them quit these kingdoms; though the reason of migration is the same to all. The *Nightingale*, *Blackcap*, *Flycatcher*, *Willow-wren*, *Wheatear*, *Whinchat*, *Stone-chatter*, and *White-throat*, leave us before winter, while the small and delicate *golden Crested-wren* braves our severest frosts. We imagine that the migrants of this genus

continue longest in *Great-Britain* in the southern counties, the winter in those parts being later than in those of the north; Mr. *Stillingfleet* having observed a *Wheatear* in the isle of *Purbeck* the 18th of *November* last. As these birds are incapable of very distant flights, we suspect that *Spain*, or the south of *France*, is their winter asylum.

Grosbeaks.

The *Grosbeak* and *Crossbill* come here but seldom; they breed in *Austria*.

Finches.

All continue in some parts of these kingdoms, except the *Siskin*, which is an irregular visitant, said to come from *Russia*. The *Linnets* shift their quarters, breeding in one part of this island, and remove with their young to others. All finches feed on the seeds of plants.

Buntings.

All the genus inhabite this kingdom throughout the year, except the greater *Brambling*, which is forced here from the north in very severe seasons.

Titmice.

Never quit this country; they feed on insects and their *larvæ*.

WATER FOWL.

Of the vast variety of water fowl that frequent *Great-Britain*, it is amazing to reflect how few are known to breed here: the cause that principally urges them to leave this country, seems to be not merely the want of food, but the desire of a secure retreat. Our country is too populous for birds so shy and timid as the bulk of these are: when great part of our island was a meer waste, a tract of woods and fen; doubtless many species of birds (which at this time migrate) remained in security throughout the year. *Egrets*, a species of *Heron*, now scarce known in this island, were in former times in prodigious plenty; and the *Crane*, that has totally forsaken this country, bred familiarly in our marshes: their place of incubation, as well as of all other *cloven footed water fowl* (the *Heron* excepted) being on the ground, and exposed to every one: as rural œconomy increased in this country, these animals were more and more disturbed; at length, by a series of alarms, they were necessitated to seek, during the summer, some lonely safe habitation.

On the contrary, those that build or lay in the almost inaccessible rocks that impend over the *British* seas, breed there still in vast numbers, having little to fear from the approach of mankind: the only disturbance they meet with in general, being from the desperate attempts of some few to get their eggs.

CLOVEN FOOTED WATER FOWL.

Hérons.

The *crested Heron* and the *white Heron* are uncommon birds, and visit us at uncertain seasons; the common kind and the *Bittern* never leave us.

Curléws.

The *Curlew* breeds sometimes on our mountains; but, considering the vast flights that appear in winter, we imagine the greater part retire to other countries: the *Whimbrel* entirely leaves *England* in the spring.

Woodcocks.

The *Woodcock* breeds in the moist woods of *Sueden*, and other cold countries. Some *Snipes* breed here, but we believe the greatest part retire elsewhere; as do every other species of this genus.

Sandpipers.

The *Lapwing* continues here the whole year; the *Ruff* breeds here, but retires in winter; the *Redshank* and *Sandpiper* breed in this country, and reside here. All the others absent themselves during summer.

Plovers.

The *green Plover*, *long legged Plover* and *Sanderling*, visit us only in winter; the

the *Dottrel* appears in spring and in autumn, yet what is very singular we do not find it breeds here. The *Sea Pie* lives with us the whole year. The *Norfolk Plover* and *Sea Lark* breed in *England*.

We must here remark, that every species of the genera of *Curlews*, *Woodcocks*, *Sandpipers* and *Plovers* *, that forsake us in the spring, retire to *Sueden*, *Poland*, *Prussia*, *Norway*, and *Lapland* to breed; as soon as the young can fly, they return to us again; because the frosts which set in early in those countries totally deprive them of the means of subsisting; as the dryness and hardness of the ground in general during our summer prevent them from penetrating the earth with their bills, in search of worms, which are the natural food of these birds.

* Mr. *Ekmarck* speaks thus of the retreat of the whole tribe of cloven footed water fowl out of his country (*Sueden*) at the approach of winter; and Mr. *Klein* gives much the same account of those of *Poland* and *Prussia*.

Grallæ (tanquam conjuratæ) unanimiter in fugam se conjiciunt, ne earum unicam quidem inter nos habitantem invenire possumus. *Amæn. Acad.* iv. 588.

Scolopaces et *Glareolæ* incredibilibus multitudinibus verno tempore in *Polonia* et *Barussia* nidulantur; appropinquante autumnno turmatim evolant. *Klein de av. errat.* 187.

Rail.
Water hens.

Every species of these two *genera* continue with us the whole year; the *Land Rail* excepted, which is not seen here in winter. It likewise continues in *Ireland* only during the summer months, when they are very numerous, as Mr. *Smith* tells us in the history of *Waterford*, p. 336. Great numbers appear in *Anglesea* the latter end of *May*; it is supposed that they pass over from *Ireland*, the passage between the two islands being but small. As we have instances of these birds lighting on ships in the *Channel* and the *Bay of Biscay*, we conjecture their winter quarters to be in *Spain*.

FINNED FOOTED WATER BIRDS.

Scollop toed
Sandpipers.

Visit us but seldom; their breeding place is *Lapland**, and other arctic regions.

Coot.

Inhabites *Great-Britain* the whole year.

Grebs.

The *great crested Grebe*, the *black and white Grebe*, and *little Grebe* breed with us, and never migrate; the others visit us accidentally, and breed in *Lapland*.

* *Amen. acaq.* iv. 590.

WEB-FOOTED BIRDS.

Avosetta.

Visits our shores in the winter time; it breeds in *Jutland*, from whence we have been favored with the eggs by Mr. *Teilmand* of *Endrupholm*.

Auks.

The *great Auk* or *Penguin* sometimes breed in *St. Kilda*. The *Auk*, the *Guillemot* and *Puffin* inhabite most of the maritime cliffs of *Great-Britain*, in amazing numbers, during summer. The *black Guillemot* breeds in the *Bass Isle*, and in *St. Kilda*, and sometimes in *Llandidno* rocks. We are at a loss for the breeding place of the other species; neither can we be very certain of the winter residence of any of them.

Divers.

These breed in the lakes of *Sueden* and *Lapland*, and some in countries nearer the *Pole**.

Gulls.

Except the *Skua*, and *black toed Gull* or *Cepphus*, it is certain every species breeds in the *British Isles*; those two inhabite the *Ferroe Isles*, *Norway* and *Iceland*, and sometimes visit our country. By the description of a large

* *Faun. Suec.* No. 150. *Grantz. Greenl.* i. 82. 83.

Gull found in *St. Kilda**, we suspect that the *Skua* breeds there.

Terns.

Every species breeds here ; but leaves us in the winter.

Petrels.

The *Fulmar* breeds in the isle of *St. Kilda*, and continues there the whole year, except *September* and part of *October*; the *Shearwater* visits the *Isle of Man* in *April*, breeds there, and leaving it in *August* or the beginning of *September*, disperses over all parts of the *Atlantic Ocean*. The *Stormfinch* is seen at all distances from land on the same vast watry tract, nor is ever found near shore except by some very rare accident. Should this be (as we suspect) the same with the *Gourder* of the *Blasket Isles*, mentioned by *Smith*, and the *Affilag* and *Goylir* described by *Martin*, it breeds on the coast of *Kerry* and in *St. Kilda*†, if those writers can be depended on. It is a mortifying reflection that the kingdoms of *Scotland* and *Ireland*, though they have produced so many men of learning and genius, should not have furnished one naturalist

* *Macaulay's St. Kilda.* 72.

† *Smith's hist. Kerry*, 186. *Martin's voy. St. Kilda*, 34. *Hist. West. Isles*, 72.

whom we dare quote with confidence: that the out-line of *North British* zoology, left by Sir Robert Sibbald near ninety-nine years ago, hath not been yet filled up; and that in this little essay we are obliged to pass over a considerable part of this island (from whence doubtless many of our birds take their departure) and to trace them from foreign writers and from foreign shores.

Goosanders.

This whole genus is mentioned among the birds that fill the *Lapland* lakes during summer: for they quit our shores in spring.

Ducks.

Of the numerous species that form this genus, we know of no more than five that breed here. The *tame Swan* and *tame Goose*, the *Shield Duck*, the *Eider Duck*, and a very small portion of the *wild Ducks*.

The rest contribute to form that amazing multitude of water fowl, that annually repair from most parts of *Europe* to the woods and lakes of *Lapland*, and other *arctic* regions*,

* Barentz found the *Bernacles* with their nests in great numbers in *Nova Zembla*. Collect. voy. Dutch East-India Company, 8vo. 1703. p. 19. Clusius in his *Exot.* 368. also observes, that the Dutch discovered them on the rocks of that country and in *Waygate Straits*. They, as well as the other species of *wild Geese*, go very far

there to perform the functions of incubation and nutrition in full security. They and their young quit their retreat in *September*, and disperse themselves over *Europe*. With us they make their appearance the beginning of *October*; circulate first round our shores, and when compelled by severe frost, betake themselves to our lakes and rivers. Of the web-footed fowl there are some of hardier constitutions than others; these endure the ordinary winters of the more northern countries, but when the cold reigns there with more than common rigor, repair for shelter to these kingdoms: this regulates the appearance of some of the *Diver* kind, as also of the *wild Swans*, the *Swallow tailed Shield Duck*, and the different sorts of *Goosanders* which then visit our coasts.

Corvorants.

The *Corvorant* and *Shag* breed on most of our high rocks: the *Gannet* in some of the *Scotch* isles, and on the

far north to breed, as appears from the histories of *Greenland* and *Spitzbergen*, by *Egede* and *Crantz*. These birds seem to make *Iceland* a resting place, for, as *Horrebow* observes, few continue there to breed, but only visit that island in the spring, and after a short stay, retire still farther north. *Coll. voy. Dutch India company*, 8vo. 1703. p. 19.

The *Swallow tailed Shield Duck* breeds in the *Icy Sea*, and is forced southward only in very hard winters. *Amæn. Acad.* iv. 585.

coast

coast of *Kerry*: the two first continue on our shores the whole year. The *Gannet* disperses itself all round the seas of *Great-Britain*, in pursuit of the *Herring* and *Pilchard*, and even as far as the *Tagus* to prey on the *Sardina*.

But of the numerous species of fowl here enumerated, it may be observed how very few entrust themselves to us in the breeding season; and what a distant flight they make to perform the first great dictate of nature.

There seems to be scarcely any but what we have traced to *Lapland*, a country of lakes, rivers, swamps and alps*, covered with thick and gloomy forests; that afford shelter during summer to these fowls, which in winter disperse over the greatest part of *Europe*. In those *arctic* regions, by reason of the thickness of the woods, the ground remains moist and penetrable to the *Woodcocks*, and other slender billed fowl: and for the web-footed birds†, the waters afford *larvæ* innumerable of the tormenting *Knat*. The days there are long; and the beautiful meteorous nights indulge them with every opportunity of collecting so

* *Flora Lapponica* Lectori et Proleg.

† A disciple of *Linnaeus*, speaks thus of their food, *Lapponia*, ubi victum ex larvis et pupis culicum, altrix paravit numinis munificentia. *Amæn. acad.* iv. 155. *M. de Maupertuis* makes the same observation, Ce ruisseau nous conduisit a un lac si rempli de petits grains jaunâtres de la grosseur du *Mil* que toute son eau en étoit teinte. Je pris ces grains pour la *Chrysalide* de quelque insecte, &c. *Oeuvres de M. de Maupertuis*, iii. 116.

minute a food : whilst mankind is very sparingly scattered over that vast northern waste.

Why then should *Linnaeus*, the great explorer of these rude deserts, be amazed at the myriads of water fowl that migrated with him out of *Lapland*? Which exceeded in multitudes the army of *Xerxes*; covering, for eight whole days and nights, the surface of the river *Calix**. His partial observation as a botanist, would confine their food to the vegetable kingdom, almost denied to the *Lapland* waters; inattentive to a more plenteous table of insect food, which the all bountiful Creator had spread for them in the wilderness †.

* *Flora Lapponica*, 273. *Amœn. acad.* iv. 570.

† It may be remarked, that the lakes of mountainous rocky countries in general are destitute of plants : few or none are seen on those of *Switzerland*; and *Linnaeus* makes the same observation in respect to those of *Lapland*; having, during his whole tour, discovered only a single specimen, that of a *lemna trifolca*, or ivy leaved duck's meat. *Flora Lap.* No. 470.

I N D E X.

A.			
A Berdavine	310	Beaver, now extinct	70
<i>Acanthis</i> , what supposed to be	305	<i>Belon</i> , the first traveller who made remarks in natural history	192
<i>Æsopus</i> , his dish of singing birds	335	Bernacle	451
<i>Agasæus</i> , <i>Agasseus</i> , what dogs	52	<i>Bison Scoticus</i>	18
<i>America</i> , no rats there originally	99	Bittern	342
<i>Anacreon</i> , mentions the carrier pigeon	219	—— the <i>Asterias</i> of the antients	343
<i>Ariosto</i> , his account of the same	ib.	—— the little	493
<i>Aristophanes</i> , mentions the use failors made of the flight of birds	402	Black-bird	228
Afs	11	Black-cap	262
—— not originally a native of Britain	12	Black-cock	201
<i>Asterias</i> , what bird	343	—— spotted	203
<i>Attagus</i> or <i>Attagen</i> , what bird	352	Bloodhound, its use	51
Auk, the greater, or <i>Penguin</i>	401	<i>Boadicia</i> , her use of the hare	90
—— common	403	Boar, wild, once found in England	44
—— black billed	404	Bots, what	9
—— little	409	Brambling	307
Avosetta	399	—— greater and lesser	322, 323
B.		Brawn, a dish peculiar to England	44
Badger	64	Brent goose	452
Barley bird or Siskin	310	<i>Britain</i> , its natural advantages;	<i>preface</i> ii
Bat, short eared	114	<i>Bruce</i> , Robert K. of Scotland, saved from a wild bull	18
—— long eared	116	Buck	34
—— a tame one	500	Bulfinch	299
Bears, once found in Britain	63	Bulls, wild	18
		Bunting	318
		Bustard	214
		Butcher-bird, great	161
		—— red backed	163
		—— left	165
		L 1	Buzzard,

- Buzzard, bald, *vide* osprey
 ——— honey 145
 ——— common 143
 ——— moor 146
- C**
- Canary birds 316
 Carrier pigeon, its uses 218
 Cat, tame 45
 ——— its value formerly 46
 ——— odd penalty for stealing
 the prince's 46
 ——— wild 47
Cataraeta or *Skua* 417
 ——— a name applied to the
 gannet 483
 Cattle, wild 18
 Cavalry, *British*, respectable 8
 ——— poor state of, in *Q. Elizabeth's*
 time 7
 ——— numerous in the time of
 K. Stephen ib.
Cephus, gull 419
 Chaffinch 306
 Chariots, scythed, of the *Brit-*
 tains 3
 Chatterer, *Bohemian* 173
 Cheese, not made by the
 Britains 16
Chenerotes 452
Chevy Chase, the story not im-
 probable 36
Childers, a horse, his speed 2
 Churn owl 246
 Cloven footed water fowl 339
 Coaches, when first used in
 England 7
 Cuddy moddy gull 423
Cornish Chough 197
 ——— tarrock 425
 Country gentlemen, the study
 of natural history recom-
 mended to *preface* xiv
- Cock, common, or poultry 218
 ——— wild only in *India* *ibid.*
 ——— the black 201
 ——— of the wood 199
 Coldfinch 273
 Colemouse 326
 Coot 392
 Coracles, or leathern boats 20
 Corvorant 476
 ——— its voraciousness 477
 ——— *Satan*, said by *Milton* to
 have assumed the form of
 this bird *ibid.*
 Crane 490
 Creeper 193
 Crossbill 279
 Crow 167
 ——— *Royston* 169
 Cuckoo 182
 ——— why a name of reproach
 183
 Curlew 346
 ——— stone 378
Cypseli, *Plinii* 435
- D.**
- Decoys, an account of 463
 Didapper, or little Grebe 398
 Diver, great northern 413
 ——— grey speckled 414
 ——— red throated 415
 Divinity, how far natural
 history may promote the
 end of *preface* vii.
 Docking of horses, an absurd
 custom 9
 Dogs 49
 ——— setting 54
 ——— lap 55
 ——— shepherd's *ibid.*
 ——— *English*, in high esteem
 with the *Romans* 56
 Dormouse 95
 Dottrel

- | | | | |
|---|-------|--|-------|
| Dottrel | 381 | Fern owl | 246 |
| Dove, turtle | 222 | Ferret, originally of <i>Africa</i> | 79 |
| —— <i>Greenland</i> | 412 | —— will produce with the polecat | 78 |
| Ducks, wild and tame | 462 | Ferruginous duck | 471 |
| —— <i>Eider</i> | 454 | Fieldfare | 225 |
| —— ferruginous | 471 | Fin-footed water fowl | 390 |
| —— grey headed | ibid. | Flight, small birds of | 329 |
| —— tufted | 458 | Fly-catcher | 264 |
| —— scaup | 459 | Fogs, apology for those of <i>Britain</i> | 15 |
| Dun-bird, the female pochard | 470 | <i>Fortunate Isles</i> , famous for birds | 316 |
| Dun-diver, or female goosander | 436 | Fox | 58 |
| Dun-diver or <i>serula</i> | 437 | —— will not produce with the dog kind | ibid. |
| Dunlin | 374 | —— Varieties of | 61 |
| | | <i>Fresnoy</i> , his observation, <i>preface</i> | viii |
| E. | | <i>Froissart</i> , his story of a gre-hound | 53 |
| Eagle, golden | 121 | Fulmar | 431 |
| —— ringtail | 124 | —— its uses in the isle of <i>St. Kilda</i> | 432 |
| —— sea | 126 | | |
| Eagles carry away children | 123 | G | |
| —— their longevity | ibid. | Gadwal or Grey | 473 |
| <i>Edgar</i> , king, his advice to the clergy | 37 | Gannet | 479 |
| —— did not extirpate wolves out of <i>Wales</i> | 62 | —— its use to the inhabitants of <i>St. Kilda</i> | 482 |
| Egret | | —— Dr. W. <i>Harvey</i> , his elegant account of these birds | 481 |
| Eider duck | 454 | Garganey | 474 |
| Ελεφαντινα ψάλια of <i>Strabo</i> | 76 | Goat | 29 |
| Elk, or wild swan | 440 | —— <i>Welch</i> , the largest | 30 |
| Ermine | 84 | —— its milk medicinal | 32 |
| —— how taken in <i>Lapland</i> and <i>Siberia</i> | 85 | Goatsucker | 246 |
| Erne, a sort of Eagle | 131 | Godwit | 351 |
| | | —— not the <i>Attagas</i> | 352 |
| F. | | —— the red | 353 |
| Falcon, peregrine | 136 | —— the lesser | 355 |
| —— grey | 137 | Golden-eye | 460 |
| Falconry | 132 | Goldfinch | 303 |
| Fallow deer, the spotted | 37 | | |
| —— deep brown | 38 | | |
| Fallow smich, or wheatear | 269 | | |
| Feather trade | 448 | | |
| | | | Gold- |

Goldfinch, not the <i>Acanthis</i>		Hare, a food forbidden to the	
	305	<i>Britains</i>	90
Goosander	436	Hawfinch	278
Goose, wild	447	Hawks, the <i>Welch</i>	154
— tame	448	— subject to change their	
— the brent	452	colors	139
— the rat or road	453	Hedge-hog	106
— white fronted	452	— its great patience under	
Goshawk	140	torture	108
Grebe, great crested	393	Hedge sparrow	265
— its floating nest	394	Hen-harrier	147
— of <i>Geneva</i> , our grebe	395	<i>Herbert</i> , Lord, his censure of	
— lesser crested	396	<i> </i> races	5
— white and dusky	397	Heron, crested	339
— little or dobchick	398	— common	340
— its singular nest	399	— white	345
Green-finch	301	<i>Himantopus</i>	380
Greenshanks	357	Hinds, milch, kept by a	
Gre-hound	52	countess of <i>Chester</i>	38
Grey headed duck	471	Hobby	150
Grosbeak	278	Hog	41
Grouse, the genus of	199	— not an undistinguishing	
— species, or red game	204	feeder	42
Guillemot	410	— its parts finely adapted	
— lesser	411	to its way of life	43
— black	412	Hoofed quadrupeds, domestic,	
Guinea hen	212	why	8
Gull, great black and white		Hoopoe	195
	416	— believed by the vulgar to	
— black toed	419	portend war	196
— arctic	420	Hooper, or wild swan	440
— herring	421	Horns fossil	40
— brown and white	422	Horse, <i>British</i>	1
— common	424	— its swiftness	2
— pewit	426	— strength	3
— small brown	427	— <i>Spanish</i> , when first intro-	
— cloven footed	430	duced	4
— Mr. <i>Jobson's</i>	391	— numbers	6
Gyr Falcon	135	— natural history and uses	7
		Hunting, <i>English</i> very fond of	
			35
H.		Husbandry or rural œconomy,	
<i>Halcyon</i> of the antients	188	how far indebted to zoolo-	
— days, what	190	gy	preface xi
Hare	87		Jack-

I N D E X.

v

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>I.</p> <p>Jackdaw 175</p> <p>Jacksnipe 359</p> <p>James I. his passion for hunting 38</p> <p>— his combat of the lion and <i>British</i> dogs 55</p> <p>Jay 172</p> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <p>Kestrel 149</p> <p>Kingfisher 187</p> <p>— the <i>Halcyon</i> of the ancients 188</p> <p>— the mute <i>Halcyon</i> of <i>Aristotle</i> ib.</p> <p>— its nest ib.</p> <p>Kite 141</p> <p>— art of steering taken from ib.</p> <p>Kittiwake, gull 427</p> <p>Knot 366</p> <p style="text-align: center;">L.</p> <p><i>Lagopus</i> 207</p> <p><i>Lagopus altera</i> of <i>Pliny</i>, uncertain what bird 205</p> <p>Lanner 138</p> <p>Lanthorns when invented 20</p> <p><i>Lapland</i>, the great rendezvous of water fowl during summer 521</p> <p>Lapwing 360</p> <p>Lark, sky 238</p> <p>— wood 236</p> <p>— tit 237</p> <p>— lesser field 238</p> <p>— red 339</p> <p>— lesser crested ibid.</p> <p>— grasshopper 240</p> <p>— willow 241</p> <p>— sea 383</p> <p><i>Latax</i> of <i>Aristotle</i> 69</p> <p><i>Lavellan</i>, a sort of weasel 86</p> | <p>Linnet 311</p> <p>— red headed 313, 314</p> <p>London, quantity of cattle consumed there 17</p> <p>Loon, <i>vide</i> Grebe</p> <p><i>Lucan</i>, describes the <i>Coracle</i> 20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M.</p> <p>Magpie 171</p> <p>Mallard 462</p> <p>Martin (beast) 79</p> <p>— yellow breasted 81</p> <p>— numerous in <i>North America</i> 82</p> <p>Martin (bird) 243</p> <p>— black or swift 245</p> <p>— sand 244</p> <p>Mastiff, <i>British</i>, trained for war 56</p> <p>Mastiffs, three, overcome a lion 55</p> <p><i>Maundeville</i>, Sir John, his account of the carrier pigeon 218</p> <p><i>Meleagrides</i>, the <i>Guinea</i> hens 212</p> <p>Merlin 153</p> <p>Mew, winter 423</p> <p>Migration of swallows 248</p> <p>— of <i>British</i> birds in general 505</p> <p><i>Milton</i>, his fine image of the skylark 234</p> <p>— elegant description of the nightingale's song 256</p> <p>— beautiful and natural image of the swan 442</p> <p>Missel bird 223</p> <p>— the largest bird that sings 224</p> <p>Mole 108</p> <p>Moor-hen 388</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Morfe,</p> |
|--|---|

- Morfe, suspected to be *British* 76
 Mouflon, *musimon*, a sort of sheep 26
 Mouse, long tailed field 103
 — short tailed 104
 — common 105
 — lesser long tailed field 498
 Mule, errors in breaking 14
- N.
- Nevell, archbishop, his great feast 495
 Nightingale 254, and 339
 — *Pliny's* beautiful description of its song 258
 Norfolk plover 378
 Norway rat 99
 Nutcracker 488
 Nuthatch 185
- O.
- Oppian's description of the beagle 52
 Orpheus, his soul said to have transmigrated into the body of a swan 444
 Osprey 128
 Otter 67
 — considered as a fish by the *Carthusians* 68
 — sea, of Sir R. Sibbald 69
 Ovid, his account of the bat 116
 — of the hoopoe 196
 Ouzel, ring 229
 — rock ib.
 — water 230
 — rose colored 489
 Owl, eared or horned 155
 — 156
 — white 157
 — brown 159
 — tawny 158
- Owl, little 160
 Ox 15
- P.
- Painter, his merit founded on his knowledge of nature *preface vii*
 Parks, numerous in *England* 37
 Partridge 208
 — white 206
 Pasturage, richness of the *British* and *Irish* 15, 16
 — much cultivated by the old *English* 16
 Peacock, an *Indian* bird 211
 Penguin, the great auk 401
 Penhebogyd, or chief falconer at the *Welch* court 154
 Petrels 431
 — their faculty of spouting oil ib.
 Pettychaps 263
 Pewit or lapwing 360
 — gull 426
 Pheasant, not originally *British* 212
 — sea 468
 Pie, sea 376
 Pigeons 216
 — carrier, its uses 218
 Pintail duck 468
 Plover, green 379
 — grey 362
 — greater 356
 — long legged 380
 — *Norfolk* 378
 Pochard 470
 Poetry, can scarcely exist without the aid of natural history *preface viii*
 Pole-cat 77
 — said to produce with the ferret 78
 Pro-

I N D E X.

vii

<i>Procurator Cynegii</i> , what	56	Rock ouzel	229
Provisions, what animals used		Roebuck	39
as, by the old <i>English</i>	495	Roller	487
Ptarmigan	206	Rook	168
Puffin	405	<i>Royston</i> crow	169
— antient method of taking		Ruff and reeve	363
	407		
— <i>Manks</i>	433	S.	
Purre	374	Sanderling	384
		Sand martin	244
Q.		Sandpiper	373
Quail	209	— ash-colored	367
Queest	221	— spotted	369
		— black spotted	ib.
R.		— green	372
Rabbit	90	Sandpiper, scallop toed, grey	390
— its vast fruitfulness	91	— red	391
Races, account of	5	Scarecrow	430
Rail, land	387	Scaup duck	459
— water	385	Scoter	457
Rams, great price of	25	Sea fowl, their harsh note	407
Rats	97	Sea lark	385
Rat-catcher, the king's	98	— pie	376
Rat, <i>Norway</i>	99	Seal	71
— of uncertain origin	ib.	— once used at great feasts	
Rat, water	101	as food	74
Raven	167	<i>Serula</i>	437
Razor-bill, or auk	403	Shag	478
— great size of its egg	404	<i>Shaw</i> , rev. Dr. his euloge	193
Red-game	204	Shearwater	431
Red-shank	368	Sheep	22
— the spotted	357	— of <i>Hirta</i> or <i>St. Kilda</i>	25
Red-start	259	— trepanning of	28
Red-wing	227	Shieldrake	461
Reed-sparrow	320	— possibly the <i>Chenalopex</i>	
<i>Ridinger</i> , the engraver, his		<i>Plinii</i>	462
merit,	<i>preface viii.</i>	— swallow tailed	469
Ring-dove	221	Shoveler	466
Ring-ouzel	229	— red breasted	467
Ring-tail	147	Shrew-mouse	112
Robin red-breast	260	<i>Silius Italicus</i> , his fine descrip-	
— endeared to children by		tion of the swan	440
the old song, the babes in			
the wood	261		

- Silius Italicus*, his account of the *Halcyon* 191
 Singing birds, their great emulation 334
 ——— vast power of voice ib.
 Silk-tail 173
 Siskin 309
 Smew 438
 ——— red-headed 439
 Snipe 358
 ——— the jack 359
 Soland-goose 479
Spain, probably the winter resort of some of our small birds of passage 506
 Sparrow 300
 ——— hedge 265
 ——— mountain 308
 ——— hawk 151
 Squirrel 93
 Stag 34
 ——— where now found wild 37
 ——— severe punishment for killing 44
 Stare 231
 Star-shot, or Star-gelly, what 423
Statius, his account of the *Halcyon's* nest 395
 Stint, or purre 374
 Stoat 84
 ——— the ermine, when white ibid.
 Stone, horses subject to 10
 Stone-chatter 272
 Stone curlew 378
Stoparola, vide flycatcher
 Storm-finch 434
 Superfoetation, hares said to be subject to 89
 Swallow 242
 ——— of their disappearance 248
 ——— found during winter in a torpid state 250
 ——— farther proofs of it 502
 Sea swallows, vide Terns
 Swan, wild 440
 ——— tame 441
 ——— punishment for killing 46
 ——— in high esteem formerly 442
 ——— sacred to *Apollo* and the muses 443
 ——— singing before their death 446
 Supposed origin of that fable 444
 Swift 245

 T.
 Tarrock 425
Taurosthenes sends advice of his success in the *Olympic* games by a pigeon 220
 Teal 475
 ——— summer 476
 Tern, the greater 428
 ——— lesser 49
 ——— black 430
 ——— brown 427
Theocritus, his account of the *Halcyon* 190
Thompson, the naturalist's poet 260
 Throftle 226
 Thrush 226
 Titlark 237
 ——— that which sings like a grasshopper 240
 Titmouse, great 324
 ——— blue 325
 ——— marsh 326
 ——— long tailed 327
Tringæ, vide Sandpipers
 Tufted duck 458
 Turkey, an *American* bird 213
 Turn-

I N D E X.

ix

Turnbull, a surname, whence derived 18
Turnstone 370
Turtle 222
 — sea 412
Twite 315

U.

Velvet duck 456
Virgil's celebrated simile of the nightingale 257
Vitilia navigia, what 19
Urus 19

W.

Wagel, Cornish 422
Wagtail, white 275
 — yellow 276
 — grey 277
Water ouzel 230
Water-hen, spotted 386
 — common 388
Water rat 101
Webbed footed water fowl 399
Weefel 82
Weefel coot 439
Welch names of birds * 113
Wheat-ear 269
Whimbrel 347
Whin-chat 271
White-throat 274
Wigeon 472
Winter mew 423

Wolf, when extirpated 62
 — not by *K. Edgar* ibid.
Wolfmoneth 63
Wolffhed ib.
Wood-chat 164
Woodcock 348
 — their migrations 349
Woodlark 236
Woodpeckers, curious structure 176
 — green ib.
 — greater spotted 178
 — lesser spotted 180
Wood-pigeon 216
Woollen manufacture long neglected 22
 — its success here what owing to 24
Wool, where the best 25
Wren 268
 — willow 266
 — golden crested 267
Writ of Edward I. for extirpating wolves out of England 62
Wryneck 181

Y.

Yellowhammer 319

Z.

Zoology, classical, too much neglected by travellers 192

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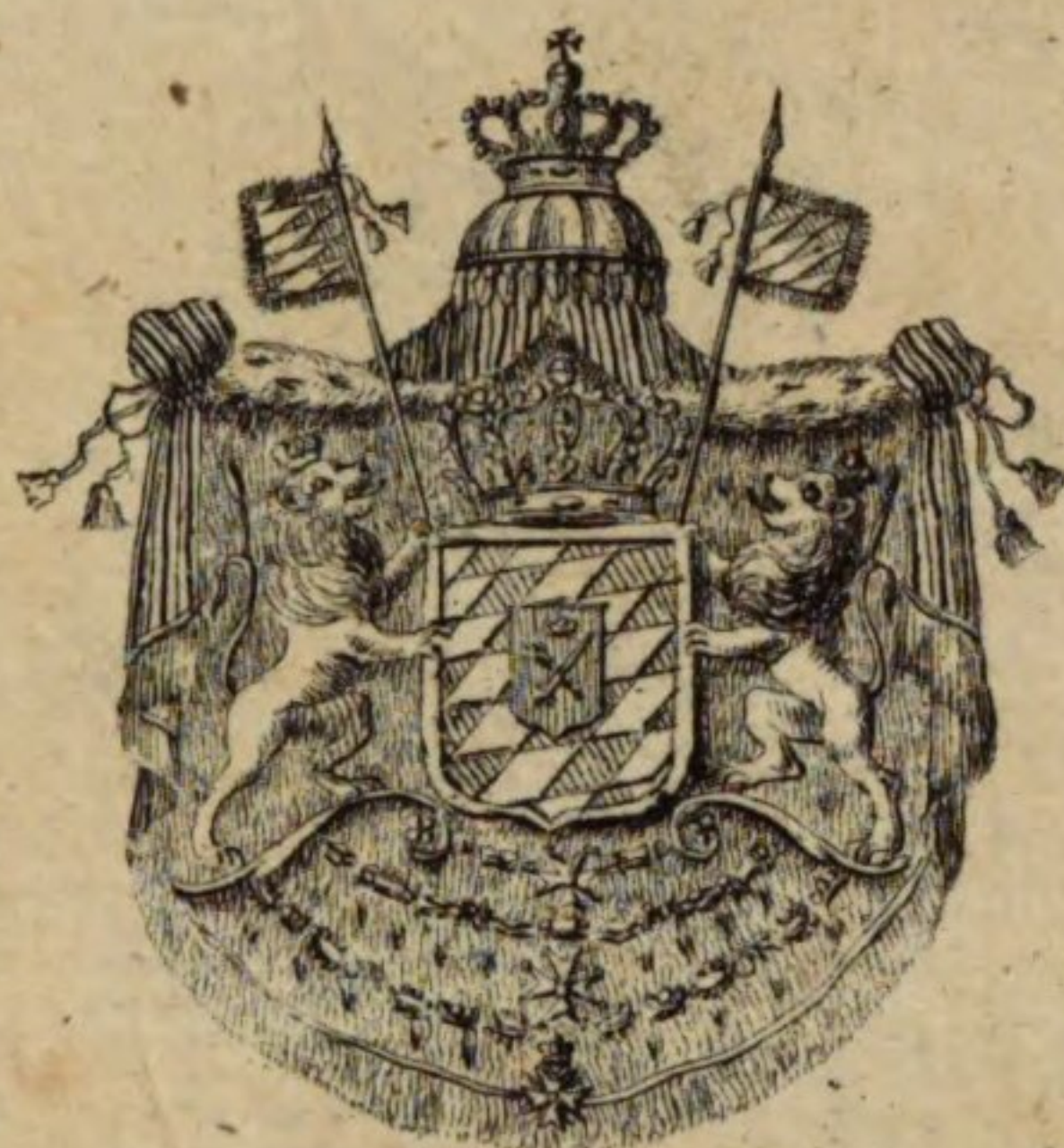
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Place the Title Page of the Second Volume before
 Page 233.



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